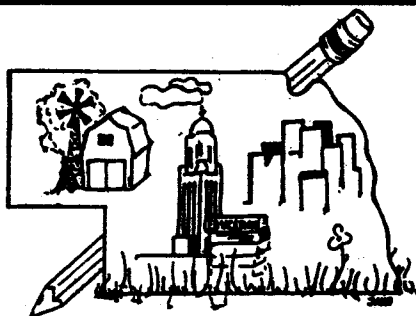


The Nebraska Observer

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Perpetrators Never Brought to Justice

Bonacci Recalls Early Trauma

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The same day that Alisha Owen's jury found her guilty of eight counts of perjury, perjury charges against another young person with a similar story were dropped. Paul Bonacci, 23, who is now in prison at the Lincoln Correctional Center serving a five-year sentence for fondling a minor in 1989, was indicted on three counts of perjury last August by the Douglas County grand jury. The stories involve allegations of sex abuse centering around Larry King and others, some of whom were involved in the failed Franklin Credit Union.

DeCamp is disappointed that the charges were dropped because certain documents he needed as evidence were unavailable to him until Alisha Owen's trial ended. Now they are unavailable to him because the charges were dropped.

Bonacci was indicted for saying: 1) he saw Alisha Owen and Robert Wadman having intercourse, 2) he saw Robert Wadman use cocaine, and 3) that he was sexually abused by Harold Andersen.

Bonacci has multiple personality disorder (MPD), a condition first diagnosed by court-appointed psychiatrist Beverley Mead. He has been seen by two other psychiatrists. MPD is said to be the result of early severe trauma. According to Mead, Bonacci is not psychotic. At the time of this interview, Bonacci told the Observer that he and his psychiatrist had discovered 103 personalities so far.

Bonacci has told the same story, according to him, since a 1986 interview with the Omaha Police Department, and before that to friends. Danny King and Troy Boner, former friends of Alisha Owen, recanted their stories before testifying to the grand jury. Bonacci says he is not a friend of Owen and has never recanted his story.

The Observer first contacted Bonacci's attorney, John DeCamp, for permission to do this interview. After receiving that, we contacted the prison and Mr. Bonacci. Bonacci agreed to the interview immediately, and tells us that he did so without consulting DeCamp. "A lot

of people and the press make me out like a marionette or something, and DeCamp pulls all the strings and stuff. That's the reason I decided to give the Observer (the interview). Everybody tells me what to do, now I have to do something on my own," he said.

The taped interview lasted three hours and was conducted at the Lincoln Correctional Center July 3. The Observer will make copies of the transcript available for \$10 July 20.

The material in the interview is shocking. While we make no pretense at being able to understand the psychological importance or literal truth of it, we have decided to print significant excerpts for three reasons. First because we question whether any serious attempt has ever been made by law enforcement people to investigate the allegations. Phone inquiries from the Observer to several law enforcement agencies were met with stonewalling; one police officer said that the allegations of Bonacci were just repeats of charges that had already been dealt with by the grand jury and others. Another, Sgt. Bovasso, said that he had done an investigation at the time of Bonacci's 1989 arrest, but it was not clear that he was referring to Bonacci's past allegations. Bovasso, like many others, was unwilling to give details because of the civil suit filed against him and many other individuals named in this story, and institutions by DeCamp on Bonacci's behalf after the criminal charges were dropped.

Second, because much of the story resembles things that Alisha Owen said. Bonacci, however, was not called as a witness either by the prosecution or the defense in Owen's trial. And third, because Bonacci regrets that he will be denied his day in court, now that perjury charges against him have been dropped. He wants his story to be told.

It is important to remember that different personalities speak at different times. They may seem to contradict each other as when one recalls the first time something happening was age eight and the other recalls the first time as age four. Actually, the two personalities just have different memories.

P.B. (When he heard they had dropped the charges) I started crying. I should have been happy, but I wasn't. Cause I just felt that...all's it's going to do is allow them to keep it covered up. I know one thing. I didn't say all this stuff just to have the charges dropped, it's like I wasn't afraid of the charges. I still wait for a way to tell the truth. And I felt cheated because...the charges are dropped. But does that ever leave me a chance to prove that I told the truth? Or is everybody going to think of me as a liar?

In 1979 Bonacci recalls meeting a man who would molest him, Walter Carlson, at a picnic on July 4th. Carlson "started picking me up that summer," took him to his house where they would watch cartoons, later sexual films, and have sex. He was eleven.

Bonacci says he was introduced to Peter Citron at Peony Park by his (Bonacci's) friend John Camp. He says he took five or six trips to San Francisco with Citron. Another person, a white fat male with brown hair, would get the tickets for him.

There were more trips.

F.M. How many trips do you think you took?

P.B. With Citron?

F.M. Well, either way, with Citron or altogether.

P.B. With Citron, 5 or 6 and with (unintelligible) probably hundreds.

F.M. Hundreds. Where all did you go?

P.B. California, Colorado, um, New York, Minnesota, (unintelligible)

F.M. So only 5 or 6 were with Citron, is that right.

P.B. Um hmm. The majority were all done for Alan Baer.

F.M. For Alan Baer?

P.B. And for King

Bonacci recalls having sex with men in East Coast cities, including Washington D.C. One was a congressman, Barney Frank. Bonacci found out who he was by checking his wallet. Bonacci said he "was with him about seven times."

New York and Boston were the cities they went to most, but the list also includes Des Moines, Kansas City, New Orleans and Dallas.

P.B. Alan Baer would take me in a car to Des

Moines and Kansas City. And then I'd fly from usually Sioux City Washington D.C. or to other towns sometimes. Larry King would set up the flights sometimes.

F.M. Commercial or private?

P.B. Usually private, there was a little plane from that he used to have us flown around, one

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Flight Inward From What Is Intolerable

Bonacci's Illness: Some Background

The Observer contacted Dr. Beverley Mead the psychiatrist who first diagnosed Bonacci's multiple personalities. We were seeking some understanding of the condition, in particular, the links between the disorder and early trauma, as well as the reliability of the patient to remember truthfully details and events. We asked Mead whether he believed the stories Bonacci tells about cult sexual abuse. "It's always important to maintain a certain level of skepticism," he said. "At the same time, we should keep an open mind." Mead believes that the ultimate literal truth of such stories can be determined by careful fact-checking and follow-up on leads given by Bonacci, and that this should be done. Mead also referred us to several sources as background on MPD. The most useful one was a section on multiple personality disorders from a chapter called "The Dissociative Disorders," in the *Textbook of Psychiatry* (American Psychiatric Press, 1988). Below are excerpts.

Although the recognition of multiple personality disorder (MPD) is not new, scientific research into it is in its infancy. Since 1980, however, the literature has expanded along with the upsurge in recognition of the disorder. One factor that has contributed to this rising awareness is the increased awareness of child abuse and incest.

In two studies by Richard Kluft, M.D., "97 percent and 98 percent (of the MPDs in the

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Omaha's Problems 'Solved' by Media Denial

by Marion Cooper

The author works in a rather sensitive position at a local corporation. Marion's company belongs to the same clubs and political persuasions as many other corporations in town and he might get in really big trouble if his boss knew he was writing a dissenting column with all that computer equipment at his disposal.

I have lived in Omaha for over four years. When I travel and people ask where I'm from, I claim it as home. Freud taught us, though, that home—while it is ours—is seldom free from defect. So, goes Omaha.

Each of my four summers in this prairie town have yielded some discussion regarding gangs, drugs, violence, swimming pools, North O, West O et al. At particularly coherent moments, all such subjects have been discussed in relation to one another but seldom if ever by the media, the community leaders, or even around a bowl of soup with accordion music at Mister C's.

You see, Omaha has a tremendous case of denial. Not denial in the classic sense, that is, concerning on thing in particular. But rather, denial about all things in general which can be construed as problematic. The city is a lot like those relatives that come during the holidays; perfect children, plenty of money, he holds the door for her, she never shouts or swears. You're pretty sure they are contract killers for the mob or maybe secret agents for whoever took the Russians place.

Omaha has a gang problem which is related to an economic problem which is second cousin to a racism problem which is the illegitimate child of a leadership vacuum. A socio-economic map of Omaha overlaid by a flow of sound bites from the broadcast and print media, tells a story never discussed in proper company. People of Color are concentrated in specific areas which—surprise—have the lowest per capita income. Just a coincidence surely, sister to the same sort of coincidental forces which denied Fred Conley the mayor's office after Bernie died.

These same areas—the ones with mostly poor people of color—are "unsafe" and "vio-

lent" according to the police and the media. Where is safety, you might ask? The cornfields west of the townships owned by the developers and investors who—surprise—have significant influence on news content and the behavior of the police. Coincidence again. A lot in a cornfield subdivision, suddenly cost more than some of the elegant homes on Florence Boulevard. And, voila, the profit margins on the cornfield are fairly good too, considering they were bought from farmers who can't make a living due to the conditions in the farm industry. Also, a coincidence having no relation to large food processors in Omaha or anywhere else.

Of course, if there were any questions aroused by these coincidences, we should not ask them. Omaha does not like questions particularly controversial ones.

Omaha was relieved when Alisha Owen was convicted. That action by the court answered a lot of terribly disturbing questions. The pillars of the community—potmarked by the fall out but intact—could once again be left to run things the way they like them for the better of us all. (All this post—Watergate.)

After the verdict we were free to occupy ourselves with talk about what this terribly misguided woman had done to tarnish the reputations of key Omaha figures without

being bothered by miscarriages of justice or dead private investigators. Heart wrenching stories appear in our local Omaha tabloid about how Ms. Owen had harmed ex-Chief Wadman's life sounding a bit like something akin to blaming Noreiga for Bush's lapse of memory regarding the Constitution during his stint as head of the CIA.

Then, there's the City Council. Indeed a subject unto itself but recently breaking its own record for parochialism with its attempt to erase affirmative action from the city's hiring practices. P.J. Morgan rescued the city from being the laughing stock of all but that group of sheeted dopes represented by David Duke in Louisiana by overruling the Council's attempt to revisit the 50's. Here in the Heartland, we believe in pulling ourselves up by the bootstraps even if we use someone else's hand and boots and land to reach our goal. The Council's advocacy for the white males right to self-determination was a wondrous affirmation of a very old world order.

Harsh this critique? Yes. Unfounded? No. A condemnation of this river burg? No way. Presently, Omaha rates a 6.2 with low marks from the Oklahoma judge. It could be an eight or higher, as it stands today, if it overcame its denial. If it were to actually do something constructive to address its problems, it could—no doubt—be a ten.

But meantime, it will continue to be "a great place to raise a family" especially if you happen to be a white male living somewhere west of I—680.

This Issue is Late! It Was Also an Unusual Challenge

Some loyal readers noticed that this issue was one to two weeks late, depending how you count. This happened because of the extra volume and highly sensitive nature of the Franklin child abuse related material. Extra time was needed to cover the stories in the best and fairest way we could. We missed our first deadline because it was necessary to take some steps for legal considerations. Suing the Nebraska Observer is still a waste of time!

We will try to get the next issue out in three weeks. If this effort succeeds, and if no other months present the caliber of challenge this last one did, we hope to keep our promise of twelve issues for the price of a yearly subscription.

Frances Mendenhall

Observer Deadlines

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OBSERVER OPINION

Owen Trial Was A Far Cry From Justice

by Frances Mendenhall

Two Observer reporters covered all but a day and a half of Alisha Owen's five-week trial.

The jury in the Alisha Owen perjury trial handed down its verdict June 21. She was found guilty on all eight counts. She is now awaiting sentencing while court ordered psychiatric testing is being administered.

Owen had told her story first on videotape to Gary Caradori who was investigating for the Legislature's special committee to investigate the child abuse allegations surrounding the collapse of the Franklin Credit Union, and later under oath to a Douglas County grand jury. Caradori came to her at the Nebraska Women's Center in York on October 30, 1989 where she was serving a sentence for writing bad checks. Caradori and his eight-year-old son were killed when his private plane crashed July 11, 1990. There has as yet been no report from the FAA detailing the reason for the crash.

The story she told detailed involvement beginning in the summer of 1983 with people allegedly connected with Larry King, the head of the credit union, who allegedly had abused her sexually themselves, had forced her to have sex with others, and had flown her to California where she and other minors were exploited sexually and involved in trafficking drugs and pornography. The grand jury ignored the allegations about the trips to California and focused on Owen's allegations about prominent Omaha men.

Her perjury indictments were for her statements that former police chief Robert Wadman had had sex with her about twenty times over a period of a year and had fathered her child, that she had seen former World-Herald publisher Harold Andersen fondle an eleven-year-old boy, and that she had been forced to have sex with Judge Ted Carlson.

It was the first time in recent memory that anyone had been brought to trial for perjury. Also hard to explain was the grand jury indictment; such indictments in theory are handed down or not handed down for the crimes alleged—it is unheard of to turn the process around and indict the person bringing the allegations in the event they are not believed.

A Question of Motives

Although it became hard to keep straight during the trial which often got sidetracked in salacious testimony about Owen's sexual history, it must be remembered that the charges against Owen were **perjury**. That means that the prosecution was charged not with proving that what she said was preposterous, but with proving that she said something that she did not herself believe to be true. In my opinion they failed to prove this at all, much less to prove it "beyond a reasonable doubt."

It comes down to motives which prosecu-

tor Gerald Moran listed as three: 1) to get out of prison, 2) to make money on a book or movie, and 3) to be somebody.

1) If Owen believed the testimony she gave could get her out of prison she would have given it before she was sent to prison. Moran never explained exactly how it might have worked that her testimony would have taken time off her current sentence, let alone offered any reason to believe that Owen was thinking along those lines.

2) The prosecution's premise that she wanted to get rich off of a book or movie was pure speculation. Much more believable was prosecution witness Mary Dvorak's recollection that the comments about a movie were made in a joking way, to underscore how bizarre the whole situation was. "Mary, you know, this would make a wonderful book or wonderful movie..." And with that some cause for hope, or at least laughter, out of the situation: "We could make a lot of money." The warden at the prison, Larry Wayne said that her comment about making a movie was facetious, and had many positive things to say about Owen. (The World-Herald's description of his testimony left the reader with the impression that he was confirming the prosecution's point).

Making money from lawsuits would not have been possible: one of the alleged perpetrators was already in jail (Larry "the kid") when Caradori spoke to her; another (Andersen) had never abused her personally; and neither Wadman nor Carlson are wealthy. Larry King was already in a prison for mental patients.

Owen Shunned Publicity

3) The prosecution's claim that she did it "to be somebody" is ludicrous to anyone who paid attention to the sequence of events; Alisha Owen never sought out anyone to tell the story, not Caradori, not the FBI, not the grand jury. In fact, the evidence is that she was coerced into telling her story to the FBI by the agents and by her lawyer, Pamela Vuchetich. Testimony by Owen's parents detailed how the FBI approached them in late January of 1990 to try to get them to persuade their daughter to talk. The Owens testified, and the prosecution never challenged this, that the FBI had told them if she didn't talk to them she could be transferred to another facility in a state too far for them to visit on weekends. Both warden Wayne and Mary Dvorak testified that she was scared. Owen, in prison, should have been read Miranda rights and told that she did not have to make any statements, but this was never done.

Owen has shunned media attention from the beginning, refusing to grant interviews, either before or after her present attorney Henry Rosenthal took the case in May, 1990. Rosenthal told her that if he were to take the case, she must refuse all contact with the

media. But from the beginning in late 1989, Owen was avoiding the media. State Patrol Officer Charles Phillips visited Owen on December 15, 1989, and insisted on taking a statement. He promised to keep it quiet, said that the State Patrol does not make press releases. But the next day Alisha heard on KFRX that there were three witnesses. Alisha was afraid, called Caradori and asked who was talking.

During February and March of 1990, there was a lot of unwelcome publicity. Owen's lawyer Pamela Vuchetich was talking to the press. Donna Owen, Alisha's mother, testified that Alisha would phone home crying, wanting to know who was talking. Owen's parents testified that they called Vuchetich numerous times asking her to stop. Owen recalled \$600 and \$700 phone bills at that time. Neither she, nor Alisha, nor Al were talking to the press.

Whom Did She Tell and When Did She Tell It?

According to Caradori's testimony to the grand jury, when he found Alisha, he confronted her with the fact that she had been abused. She was surprised since she hadn't ever told anyone. Caradori said it was Alisha who brought up the names Larry King, Robert Wadman, and Harold Andersen. Alisha testified that she told them at that point that she "knew" them. It is unclear from what Caradori told the grand jury whether he knew when he first visited Alisha that she was herself a victim of these particular men; what is clear is that he knew she was very knowledgeable about others who were. Caradori gave her a week before he came back to videotape the interview.

According to the testimony of Warden Larry Wayne, the next day Owen told the prison psychiatrist her story of abuse and that Caradori knew about it. Her concern was at that point was safety. If Caradori knew her story, then others probably did too, and those who had abused her might try to silence her. The psychiatrist, also concerned about safety, encouraged her to tell the warden so they could take precautions to protect her.

A week later Caradori returned. Owen then told Caradori about Troy Boner and Danny King, two other young people who she alleged had been with her on several trips to California and who had been caught up in certain other aspects of the sex and drug lifestyle. A few weeks later Caradori found Boner and immediately took him to the Residence Inn in Lincoln to tape his statement. The prosecution would argue that before they went to the Residence Inn, they stopped at Caradori's office and Boner talked to Owen on the phone for twenty minutes in order to be instructed in what to say. No evidence of this call, which would have been billed somewhere, was ever produced. If Alisha had talked to anyone, the

prison would have had a guard standing near her the whole time, but no prison official was ever produced to testify that it happened. Another time in the grand jury he was asked whether Alisha talked with Troy before the tapes were made. He said "not that I know of. Before they went to the Residence Inn Troy was never out of my sight."

The idea that Owen's story is a scam becomes hard to explain in light of what happened and when it happened. First there is the question of how it happened that the stories told by the three had any common details since Owen never had an opportunity to be with or talk to Boner to script him. Boner testified that he hadn't seen her for a year prior to making the tapes with Caradori. This subject is dealt with in a longer article on page 4 of this Observer.

Second, if we are to believe that the part about Wadman is a hoax, we then must believe that Owen was extraordinarily lucky in choosing a name out of the air for the child's father, a person to whom the child then and now bears a breathtaking resemblance. Owen had no time to think it over, and no photo file to consult. Caradori dropped in without notice and she gave him the name. She alleges and the prosecution did not dispute that she had never before told anyone that Wadman fathered her child.

Boner's Recantation

The recant by Boner deserves special comment. The story that unfolded in the trial portrayed Boner as a chronic liar, a substance abuser, and a scam artist; the obvious conclusion that should be drawn is that his testimony is always suspect. But another part of the story had to do with Boner under pressure. And he was indeed under pressure from the FBI to recant as several witnesses and a telephone recording of a call by him to Owen revealed.

Then in July, 1989, Caradori was killed. Boner again behaved as if pressured, perhaps from the guilt of having betrayed a man now dead. Numerous witnesses reported that right after Caradori's death he expressed an intention to recant his recantation. Boner told people that he had gone to the FBI, but they laughed and refused to allow him to change his mind. Sandy Caradori also testified a confrontation with an FBI man Mickey Mott that confirmed that Boner had actually gone to the FBI office to do it, but had been rebuffed.

According to Sandy Caradori's testimony from the notes she took the night of her husband's death, Boner said, "I'm really sorry, this shouldn't have happened. Gary was telling the truth. I've been pressured to change. I shouldn't have changed. You don't understand how much pressure I'm under. I'm

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Evidence the Owen Jury Didn't Get to See

by Rita Hamilton

A possibly important part of the evidence in the Alisha Owen trial were the taped statements of Troy Boner and Danny King. Although Troy and Danny were later to recant their stories, the possibility still remained in some minds that their original versions were truthful, as Boner did later attempt to recant his recant and since there were some similarities in the three tapes that, it was argued, could not have been fabricated without the three getting together to agree on details. The prosecution never adequately explained how they could have gotten together: when investigator Caradori found her, Alisha was in prison, and except for Troy's testimony that he talked to her for 20 minutes before making his tape, there was no evidence that phone communication ever happened—no documentation of long distance charges and no prison personnel who witnessed Alisha's end of the call. The similarities in the three taped stories, then, become important in the jury's consideration of whether the stories indeed were fabricated. Unfortunately, however, the jury was not allowed to make the judgment about the similarities since Judge Case did not allow the

tapes of Danny and Troy to be submitted as evidence.

The Observer viewed all of the tapes and attempted to answer the question, "were there important similarities that could not have showed up in the stories unless they were true?" Although it has been necessary to edit for space, it is our intention to include a fair sampling of the details from the tapes that would suggest either corroboration or contradiction. In truth, the stories were more dissimilar than similar because the majority of material narrated by all three covered completely different events. Alisha was charged with eight very specific counts of perjury. Neither Troy nor Danny talked about the exact subject matter of each count in its entirety but rather made statements that would either add to or detract from the credibility of the overall story. It is interesting that the parts of the tapes where there is the most corroboration are those that describe trips to other cities, a subject not included in the indictments and apparently of no concern to the grand jury. What we have selected then is an annotated version of excerpts from the Boner and King tapes. Bold highlighting indicates corroboration. Underlining indicates contradiction.

Alisha says her first contact with the people and events in this story came in August, 1983 when she went to a party at Twin Towers with a boy named Jeff Hubbell whom she had met at Peony Park Sprite Night the week before. She met Larry "the kid", Larry King, Alan Baer, Harold Anderson and Rob Wadman that night. They played the "501" game. This was a party game where one person undid the buttons of another person's "501" Levis with their toes.

Troy Boner says his first involvement with any individuals connected to homosexual activity occurred in August, 1983 when he

was introduced to Alan Baer by a mutual friend named Rod Bier (spelling uncertain). He says he did not meet Alisha until early 1984. He does not know what the "501" game is. He was the first person to have sex with Alisha.

Alisha talks of having a long term sexual relationship with Wadman. She talks of being taken to the Starlite Motel in Council Bluffs. Danny King talks of having sexual experiences at the Starlite Motel. Troy tells of being in the Starlite Motel while Wadman and Alisha are having sex in an adjoining room. He was there for the purpose of fixing Wadman

up with another young girl when he was done with Alisha. Alisha says that in the summer of 1986 Larry (the Kid) told her 'you had better be good because you got some competition'. Troy talks of being at a party in a "big house about 90 blocks north of the Crossroads" and seeing Wadman in a poolroom engaged in sexual activities with Alisha and a young boy. Alisha maintains she knew of no homosexual involvement on the part of Wadman. Troy talks of several instances of personal knowledge of homosexual activity by Wadman.

Alisha said that she was picked up many

Wednesdays by either Wadman or Larry "the kid" and taken to various motels around town for sexual purposes. If Wadman picked her up she would be taken to a motel and have sex with him. If Larry "the kid" picked her up she would be taken to a motel to have sex with whatever man happened to be there. Troy says that both he and Larry King would fix Alisha up with various men for various Wednesday encounters.

Alisha and Troy speak of a photographer named Rusty Nelson. Troy also says he used the name "Russell Barry".

Both Troy and Alisha spoke of a 'Swedish blonde named Sheila Calder'. Troy called her an 'owner' and Alisha called her a 'manager' of the French Cafe. Both said Sheila was involved in organizing parties and recruiting kids for parties.

Both Alisha and Troy speak of black brothers from Boystown named Tony and Odell. Troy also speaks of Rodney.

Boner maintains that he introduced Alisha to Rob Wadman in October, 1985.

Troy said that in the end of 1984 he was forced to have sex with Alisha in a hotel room in front of Wadman and Larry King. He first said Alisha was 14 and then corrected to 15 to account for her recent birthday. Alisha said that at the time of her first experience with Wadman he was aware that she had recently been with Boner but she did not say that Boner had been forced or that anybody had watched.

Boner said that he was with Alisha after she had been given an injection by Wadman that made her very laid-back. Alisha said that Wadman had nothing to do with drugs.

Both Alisha and Troy talk about being taken on trips later on (86 or 87) for the purpose of babysitting or taking care of the younger kids.

Alisha and Troy both talk of a trip to California to buy cocaine. They purchased \$4000 worth of cocaine with money given to them by Alan Baer. Both Troy and Alisha say that Alan did not know that Alisha went on the trip with Troy. Troy says the trip happened in May 1986 and that Alisha carried the cocaine back to Omaha. Alisha says the trip happened in October 1987 and Troy carried it back.

Continued on next page

From the Tapes: Common Threads in Three Stories

by Rita Hamilton

Alisha, Troy and Danny describe many trips in their taped stories. Many of them have little or nothing in common. There was one trip in each of the three stories, however, that had in our opinion a significant number of overlapping details. Below is our condensation of the three stories.

Troy's version

Can't say I can even say what time period it was, I was really enjoying cocaine at the time. Left from Omaha from Sky Harbor, it didn't have a propellor. Alisha, Danny, myself and two white kids, maybe 9 yrs. old. I didn't talk to the kids. I sat in the back, got high and tripped. Larry King was there too. 'Danny and Alisha were set up by Larry King to do some fucking shit, look man, I don't know the details.' It was all pre-arranged. We landed at Pasadena.

There was a big old white guy that took Danny and Alisha. It was all pre-arranged. Danny and Alisha neither one wanted to be there, they let me know that. Me and Larry dropped the kids off in two different places. The first one really cried when we took him to the door. I didn't even ask what happened to those kids. I've wondered many times. That was my last involvement with these guys. We were there for two days. We picked Danny and Alisha up at the same house where we dropped them off. Alisha

'looked like shit, it was obvious that she'd been fucked every where but her eye probably. I don't know if he had kept her locked up in a room or what. She smelled terrible.' She didn't talk to me for a long time after that. Danny wouldn't tell me what happened. He was extremely angry and wanted to kill them.

Danny's version

June, Thursday or Friday, 1986. It was a private plane from Omaha. Danny, Alisha, Troy, Larry King and two little kids that were 12 or 12 yrs old but they looked a lot younger than that. They sat like statues the whole trip. Nobody talked to them but the rest of us were drinking and having fun. We landed at LAX. Troy and Larry left with the two kids. They didn't come back with us. There was an older white man there to pick up Alisha and Danny. They stopped at McDonalds, then drove one or one and a half hours to a big fancy house with lots of people there. Danny had sex with one man about 28 yr old. The encounter lasted about three hours and he got about \$500 worth of cocaine for it. Next day when he saw Alisha she was a mess. Looked like she had just 'come out of the jungle or something I figured she must have been gangbanged or something'. We both cried together for a long time. The two kids never came back with us. I think harm came to them, I really do. He thinks it's possible that he had more sexual experiences than what he said but he was real loaded.

Alisha's version

Spring break, March 1984. The flight was in a private Cessna with a bathroom. They flew from Omaha to Los Angeles through Denver. Alisha, Troy, Danny, Larry, Jeremy and little kid I did not know. one guy from the French Cafe, I was 15 Danny was 13, Troy was 17. The little boy that didn't return couldn't have been more than 12. We made a stop in Denver for about 1 hour. Larry King and the guy from the French Cafe got off for about 1 hour. We landed in a small airport in Los Angeles and Larry King and the boy got out. We went on to another airport. Danny and I were taken to a motel. Two business type men came to the door, one with snow white hair. Each took a young person to a room. Alisha was forced to perform oral sex, she was threatened and thrown and hit for about five hours. Then they left. At first Danny King wouldn't let her into the room with him. After awhile he let her in. They cried and showered. They were afraid the men would come back. They spent the night there and left the next morning when Troy and the man from the French Cafe came back. Troy apologized. She was very happy to be with somebody that wouldn't hurt her. She never saw the little boy again. He seemed like a happy child.

Observer Opinion, Owen Trial

Continued from page 3

really scared."

Is Boner to be believed under any circumstances? Perhaps not. But he should be viewed as least credible under pressure, as he was when he recanted. And the testimony he gave under the least amount of pressure had to be that which he gave Caradori.

Who Was Vuchetich Helping?

Owen's original lawyer Pamela Vuchetich played a strange role, appearing more to collaborate with the FBI than to defend Owen.

As discussed above, she was during February and March of 1990 saying incredibly indiscrete things to the press. At one point she was quoted by the Kansas City Star as saying that the abuse victims were greater than 100 in number. Agent Culver of the FBI testified that for the FBI interviews between 2/12/90 and 4/10/90 Vuchetich signed in with them and discussed the victim with them while riding out and back with them. Vuchetich had in her possession materials given her by Owen, documents such as personal calendars, address

letters, notes on meetings

lists, and a special collection of documents called "Alisha Owen, VIP (very important papers)." These papers were turned over to the FBI even though the subpoena specifically excluded materials that were exempted by the lawyer-client privilege. When Owen's new attorney Henry Rosenthal was to trying to get needed materials from her he was met with stonewalling.

The Observer asked Pamela Vuchetich for an interview and she

agreed, and made an appointment. But she didn't keep the it and has not returned messages left at her father's office. Her own phone is "temporarily disconnected."

Vuchetich told me at the time I arranged for the interview that Alisha was "precious" to her and that she would do nothing to hurt her. If I had been able to talk to her I would have asked why, if she cared for Alisha did she choose to represent Danny King after he had retracted his story; the "conflict of interest" she cited at the time would suggest that Danny's interests could not be represented without hurting Alisha. I would also have asked her

how it happened that Terry Clemmens, the last minute prosecution witness bought in to add to mud thrown, was her client.

Defense's Weaknesses

There were two big weaknesses in Owen's defense. The first was her volunteering at her presentencing evaluation that Mark Burkhart was the father of her child. It was a glaring inconsistency in a story that she otherwise sustained for a year and a half with remarkable consistency.

The second was their failure to bring forth witnesses who could back up her stories of the parties at Twin Towers. Some of the people she described may be around; for example, the Observer has viewed a videotape that Caradori made of another Franklin related person named David Matsen who remembered Sheila Calder, the woman who was supposed to have let Wadman and Owen into the French Cafe. Matsen also recalled a black man named Larry who was serving as a buffer between Larry King and the public. Matsen encountered this person during his employment at the credit union in late 1985 and early 1986 when he went to see King at the Twin Towers. They sat around and talked because Larry King was going to be late. Larry was black, people in the building such as the mail carrier, office manager, the security guard knew who he was, and he seemed to be running interference for King. This person could have been Larry "the kid" referred to by Owen. Another possible connection with Larry "the kid" is Paul Bonacci, (see Bonacci interview, page 15). Larry the Kid was known to Alisha as Larry King's enforcer. He was the one she described as frightening her and threatening her into doing things she might not have done. It was Larry the Kid who allegedly arranged for her sexual liaisons, and drove her to the motels.

Someone close to the grand jury told this reporter that another child witness involved with King testified to the grand jury referring to a similar character.

Matsen, as well as numerous others, recall Odell, Tony, and Rod

Evans, black brothers seen at Larry King's parties and mentioned (except for Rod) by

Owen.

There was, from the Observer's point of view, a problem in that people were afraid to come forth. While gathering information for these articles, I talked to three sources, one who approached me and two whom I sought out, who expressed fear. Two of the three changed their minds completely after first agreeing to allow me to use their information without their names, the third allowed me to use her information but refused to allow her name to be used. The two who completely backed off cited fear that something might happen to them as it had "happened" to Caradori.

Unanswered Questions

Alisha Owen was clearly abused by someone. The grand jury said it and members of the recent petit jury agreed that some of her story was probably true. Yet the prosecution made no attempt to explain who abused her, which would have made the prosecution's story more cohesive. Why? Perhaps they tried to find the perpetrator but couldn't find anyone except Wadman to pin it on. Why has the focus been punitive when, even if she is lying, she so obviously is herself a victim?

Still unanswered, how extensive was sex abuse of minors in the social circle of Larry King and Alan Baer? Baer was never prosecuted for abusing Troy Boner, but much undisputed testimony in this trial indicated that he did. What about the abuse of the Webb girls, and other victims interviewed by the grand jury? The prosecution's "proof" that Twin Towers could not have been the scene of the parties described by Owen because he didn't have a lease there until 1987 was inadequate; we know people who saw Larry

King at Twin Towers in the early eighties on a regular basis and believed that he lived there.

What about the rest of the evidence Caradori uncovered? there were many others besides Boner, King, and Owen.

If abuse by prominent men were to happen, what are the real chances it could ever be brought to light? Judging from what happened in this case, such allegations in Omaha would likely result in an attempt to massively retaliate and discredit the alleged victims, without ever addressing the source problems. If the alleged victims were like many sex abuse victims, poor, friendless, without strong support, or even addicted, as Danny King and Troy Boner are, they must now have gotten the message that they will be coerced into telling law enforcement officers what they want to hear quickly, with no attempt made to get them the help they need. If the alleged victims were strong persons who can support their story and count on their families, the best they can expect is to know that their friends believe them. In such a climate the powerful will always make their own rules.

On the other hand, if false abuse allegations are made, the public deserves a better response than what came of this trial, which left completely unanswered the questions about parts of the story that were true, and how the system should respond to young people who have been damaged. State Sen. Loran Schmit asks, "why didn't the grand jury charge law enforcement agencies with the task of finding the ones who did it?" That surely was the more important concern than the outbursts of vindication for the pillars of the community displayed by our judicial system. It was a far cry from justice.

Jury Didn't See

Continued from previous page

Both talk of making a trip to California to pick up two porno films. Alisha says for Alan Baer. Troy says for Larry King. Troy says they were very special tapes. He thought some kid got killed at the end.

Both mention a drug dealer named Zeke or Zig.

Alisha tells a story about a trip to Kansas City during July of 1984. She and Danny King were taken to a motel with a waterfall. Two men came into the room. Alisha says she was taken to a back bedroom by one man where

she was subjected to several hours of very bizarre, brutal behavior. She was taken back to the living room where Danny King was sitting on the couch between two men. He appeared to have been hurt. The men left, Larry and Larry the Kid came back. They came back to Omaha very early the next morning. Danny says that he made a trip to Kansas City with the same people to a hotel with a waterfall, but he maintains it happened in the winter of 1986. They did not stay overnight. He did have to wear a halloween mask but said no one was hurt.

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Whitehouse Weirdness — What's With the Water?

Dear Lulu:



Dear Lulu:

I'm so concerned about our dear president George Bush. I read that the water is real bad in the White House and just why can't we afford some Culligan or something like that for our first family, for heaven's sake! And now I see he has a thyroid problem. Well, let me tell you, I know about thyroid problems because I had an uncle Louie whose feet got to be six feet long because of his thyroid. And, of course, I remember poor Jerry Colonna with his thyroid-problem eyes. Shouldn't we remind folks of what can happen if these things aren't taken care of?

Love, A Thyroid-Watcher in Thedford.

Dear Thyroid:

You raise several interesting problems. Could the White House water have been the cause of Honest Abe's height and facial hair problems? A secret CIA document details the connection between Mamie Eisenhower's resemblance to a deformed French poodle and the water. Tricky Dick loved to sip the tainted water through a straw while listening to Watergate tapes. And we have a special secret photo of George Bush when he ran the CIA, with—of all people—his close friend Jerry Colonna! Who knows where this may lead?

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

A little kitchen hint—all these poor women on TV who are having trouble with yeast infections should just throw those old yeast packets away and start over. It'll make so much better bread dough.

Love, A Homemaker in Halsey.

Dear Home:

Gee, thanks.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I'm still wondering about this property tax problem in Nebraska because I don't own any railroads, although my little brother used to have this Lionel set I just hated, but I do have some pipelines, although there's some water in them right now, so who's going to win this thing?

Love, A Former Taxpayer in Fullerton.

Dear Former:

The winner is clearly the guy who sold all the protest forms. My guess is that the rest of us lost.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

My poor dear cat Blossom has diarrhea and I'm just beside myself with the mess and

problems and what to do. I came home tonight and, my goodness, what a mess, and what with her being white and all, I just didn't know how to clean her up because there just weren't enough dish towels, plus when I laid the towels down on the clean dishes I just kept having to rewash the dishes. And so I finally ended up taking a shower with her, and at that moment, my wife walked in, and I'm having difficulty explaining why I'm bathing with the cat. And now the cat's as mad as a hatter because I didn't use the vibrating shower head on her. Did I handle this correctly?

Love, Chuck and Blossom in Council Bluffs



CIA photo of Mamie Eisenhower at a group therapy session for people with unexplained resemblances to animals. Mamie was vexed by her unshakable resemblance to a deformed French poodle.

To Marry the Rich" and it taught me how to hang out around rich men. I weigh 300 pounds and I drool, so I was concerned whether this would work. But I rented an expensive car, moved to an expensive rental house, rented movies rich people might like,

and generally tried to do all the neat things rich people do. Well, I met this very nice 350 pound gentleman who stopped to help me when I faked a flat tire outside a ritzy country club. We hit it right off. He drives an expensive car, lives in an expensive neighborhood, and eats Gray Poonon mustard. I'm really in love with him but last night, while casually searching through his desk, I

found a checkbook balance of \$2.35 and a copy of "How to Marry the Rich." This jerk is trying to trap a wealthy nitwit! This is revolting! What do I do now?

Love, Revolted in Regency.

Dear Regency:

Marry him immediately. A computer couldn't make a better match.

Love, Lulu.



Secret photo shows Bush and Jerry Colonna running CIA.

Dear Chuck:

I can't think of any other way to handle it, unless Windex would of helped. Please don't ever write to me again. Don't even think of writing. Tell Blossom hello for me.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I bought this cassette from a late-night TV program starring some Texas lady, called "How

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Common Misconceptions About the Owen Trial

By Frances Mendenhall

1. Isn't the story over now? Two juries have said it was a hoax, two of the three hoaxers have recanted, and the third was found guilty of perjury.

The story is far from over.

If a retrial is not granted there will surely be an appeal for Alisha Owen. But this story goes beyond Alisha. Many people think she falsely accused Wadman, Andersen, and Carlson, but that her basic story of young people being used in a network that many times took them on planes to other cities was true. Many people know of sex for pay that went on with Alan Baer and the habits of Larry King to travel with an entourage that often included young people. Pressure must be kept on investigative agencies to continue to bring light to these events.

The recanting of the two, Troy Boner and Danny King, must be kept in perspective. Both young men are addicted, one to methadone, the other to cocaine. They are both abused, lacking in family support, low-self esteem, low credibility type people. Troy, additionally is a manipulative person who simply changes his story a lot. Troy told many others how much pressure he was under. In retrospect it is really no surprise that they would yield to the pressure.

The question for Troy and Danny is not whether one should believe their original tapes based on their reliability, but whether the points of similarity in the tapes of Alisha, Danny, and Troy could have happened in the absence of an opportunity for them to rehearse the "hoax." (See page 4.)

There is reason to believe that Troy and Danny, in as much as their stories overlap with testimony from others (such as Paul Bonacci—see front page), were doing their best to tell the truth at the time. The stories have too much in common.

2. But the jury must have taken all that into account.

The jury was not allowed to see Danny and Troy's tapes because the judge believed they were irrelevant. The Observer is printing selections from the tapes that we believe are quite relevant so you can judge for yourself.

Neither was the jury allowed to benefit from the testimony of Special Prosecutor Sam Van Pelt who some say kept important information from the grand jury. Paul Bonacci, who reports experiences many of which resemble Alisha's, was not called as a witness.

Neither did the jury hear of the extensive dirty tricks the FBI and Alisha's former attorney Pamela Vuchetich used to get her testimony. Charles L. Phillips of State Patrol testified that he took a subpoena to Vuchetich and got the contents of the "VIP" file, where Alisha kept "very important papers," and gave Mr. Dougherty of the grand jury information regarding the contents of the file.

Phillips had run errands for the FBI before. Armed with inside information the FBI, the Grand Jury, and ultimately the prosecution in the recent trial were able to come up with astonishing numbers of friends and former friends who would portray Alisha as a grandstander, a liar, and a tramp. Even with that advantage, however, they were not able to come up with a potential father for Amanda.

3. Hadn't she been planning this all along with Mike Casey?

There is absolutely no evidence that Casey masterminded anything. Anyone who reads the World-Herald, however, might think that.

The prosecution never made the case that Casey was pulling the strings. He was not even called as a witness. Yet, for reasons unknown to anyone we have talked to, Michael Casey's letters to Alisha were included in the exhibits. Ironically, John C. Hurley, the juror described by the World-Herald as the last holdout (for conviction) made his decision based on letters from Michael Casey. According to Hurley, quoted by the World-Herald (we have not been successful in reaching him), Casey wrote something like this to Alisha: "Maybe I should have prepared you a little better before I told Gary Caradori about you." Sources close to the trial and Casey himself in an interview with the Observer deny that letters he wrote to Alisha said anything like that. He also vehemently denies ever promising her any movie contracts. If Hurley had the idea that Casey was so influential over Owen he got it outside the courtroom, which is one example among many of widespread misinformation that cause people to question whether it was even possible for Owen to get a fair trial in Omaha.

4. Didn't Caradori lead the witnesses?

Caradori told the grand jury that when Alisha would talk about sexual matters she would break down and he would shut the camera off. There were also times when there were distracting interruptions that came from rooms nearby that caused him to turn the camera off.

5. Wasn't the FBI just doing its job?

The FBI is capable of extraordinary dirty tricks.

The evidence is that Owen was coerced into telling her story to the FBI by the agents and by her lawyer, Pamela Vuchetich. Testimony by Owen's parents detailed how the FBI approached them in late January of 1990 to try to get them to persuade their daughter to talk. Owen, in prison, should have been read Miranda rights and told that she did not have to make any statements, but this was never done. On March 9, 1990 the FBI gained the cooperation of Troy Boner and placed a call to

Owen attempting to set her up. Boner tried to get her to say that the stories were made up. Owen didn't do it. Ultimately, the grand jury and the prosecuting attorney for her trial were able to come up with a seemingly unlimited supply of witnesses who would testify as to her promiscuity. They did it with inside information that they got through questionable means.

6. I know a disturbed young person who is a pathological liar. It seems to me that Alisha Owen is like her.

Pathological liars are able to keep a hoax going and manipulate situations. But their luck and credibility eventually run out and they get exposed to those they have deceived. Alisha Owen has consistently told the same story since October 30, 1989. Her family and her attorney have stood behind her unshakably. If Alisha is a pathological liar, she has done an exceptional job of gaining loyal support from her family and others.

7. If her story is true, why did Alisha keep it a secret for so long?

The real question is, why did she decide to tell it when she did. Many abuse victims wait much longer, some never tell at all.

Alisha had told no one about the abuse when she first went to jail. She testified that when Caradori came to her in prison October 31, 1989, he introduced himself as an investigator for the legislative committee and said that her name kept coming when he investigated for Larry King. She testified that she was taken off guard, and admitted that she knew Larry King, Harold Andersen, and Robert Wadman. She said she did not know whether at that point Caradori had identified her as a victim of the abuse. They agreed to meet in a week.

"I was scared to death," she testified. She was having nightmares and went to see the prison psychiatrist, demanding confidentiality. The psychiatrist told her that the warden would need to know what she had already told him, for her security. According to her testimony, she realized while talking to the warden that she would be more at risk if she kept quiet than if she talked. "If I don't say anything and they know he's been here maybe I'll get a midnight visitor to make sure I never tell. But if I tell, won't they (law enforcement) have to protect me?" she recalled asking the warden. The warden said she was right, and she decided to tell the whole story.

8. How could her parents not know?

They did know about some things. Donna Owen testified that in 1983 Alisha would come home and go straight to the bathroom to change clothes. There was a bad odor. Mrs. Owen talked to her daughter about hygiene, and also considered a medical problem. It

happened several times, and Alisha passed it off as a result of her having not changed clothes or showered after gym. She was later to testify that Wadman would not allow her to shower after they had sex. When Mrs. Owen was about to take her to a doctor, the problem went away. After Alisha graduated she got combative and had mood swings. It was not normal; she went from nice to mean. Mrs. Owen testified that by then she had been watching Donahue and suspected that she was acting out some abuse. She remembered that it was enough of a concern to her that she shared it with the other women in her prayer group before she confronted Alisha.

Donna Owen also recalls a very different version of the story told by prosecution witness Steve Solberg about their first evening together. The story Steve Solberg told for example about bringing her home at 1:30 on January 2, 1984 after a wild night of a pickup date and sex. But according to Donna Owen, Alisha and her cousin Stephanie had been together and had gone to Westroads. They were supposed to take the bus and be home by 9:30. When they arrived home at 10:30—Mrs. Owen remembered she was watching the news—they were in trouble. Mrs. Owen testified that she told them to get in the house, called Stephanie's mother and had her taken home, and grounded Alisha.

Donna Owen told me that she allowed her children to do things that had been safe when she was a young person—stay overnight with friends, babysit, and go on outings. While it was supposed to have happened, she had no idea of the sexual abuse her daughter would later describe.

9. Several people who knew her in high school say she was very promiscuous. How can we believe her story now?

Alisha's mother acknowledges that she was promiscuous, and so does Alisha, and they're not lying about that.

In general the sexual history of a possible sex crime victim has nothing to do with her credibility. According to many people in social service professions, victims of sex abuse often later become promiscuous, although no one has proven a direct cause and effect. According to testimony undisputed by the prosecution, Alisha was not promiscuous before the time she said she got involved in sex and drug parties with people associated with Larry King.

10. Why do so many credible people doubt Alisha's story?

Attorney Marc Delman is one who decided early that Alisha was lying. Delman testified that he never viewed Alisha's tape, but that he had viewed Danny's and Troy's tapes and from them decided that the whole story was a scam. It seems possible that he might have

Continued on page 17

Now that Deregulation Has Done So Much For S&L's

Bush Administration May Loosen Bank Rules

by Jeff Kirkpatrick

The author is a simple country boy currently working as Communications Director for Nebraska Farmers Union. He has his checking account in a S&L, a CD in a small town bank and has invested part of his federal income taxes in the S&L bailout.

If you have been enjoying the S&L fiasco with its \$150 to \$180 billion taxpayer cost, you are in for a treat with Savings & Loan II, also known as the banking deregulation initiative.

In the early 1980's the savings and loan industry, a traditionally conservative sector which primarily made residential loans, was facing some financial difficulties. The Congressional answer was to deregulate S&L's, to allow them to make riskier and potentially more profitable investments. S&L's expanded and regulators were stretched thin. Was the regulatory agency underfunded or simply incompetent? In the end it didn't matter. Throw in a Charles Keating here and a Neil Bush there, and before you know it you are talking real money.

But that is ancient history according to the Bush administration, all we can do is hold our nose and pay the bill.

We are now in the early 1990's and the banking industry is facing some financial difficulties. Banks are starting to fail at an increasing rate. But don't worry, George Bush's Treasury Department has come up with the answer: deregulation. The Treasury plan is currently being used as the bill to work off of by the House Banking Committee.

A key portion of the administration's proposal would allow interstate branch banking with few restrictions. There are two arguments for allowing nationwide branch banking. The first reason is that there is not enough competition in banking. Interstate banking will allow large mega-banks to move into previously restricted local markets, competing to make loans and offer services, thereby benefiting consumers.

The second reason is that we have "too many banks" in the United States. This "excess capacity" causes banks to compete too much for loans and putting the banks at financial risk by benefiting consumers too much. If these two arguments don't make sense to you, it's because you're trying to use logic.

The Treasury version of banking reform would also repeal the Glass-Steagall Act, passed during the Depression, and allow banks into securities underwriting, real estate speculation, and insurance services. A pessimist would compare this action to the deregulation that allowed S&L's to make riskier loans, but pessimists seldom do well in politics.

Finally the Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady is calling for allowing corporate ownership of banks. If you like what GM has done for American cars and US Steel has done for American steel, wait until you see what they

can do for our banks.

Some observers had expected the banking bill to be limited to refinancing the FDIC with some added controls. The Treasury ideas were expected to be dead on arrival. But the Banking Committee is dominated more and more by young technocrats who are not afraid of the brave new world of banking. Their campaign war chests are swollen with the donations of banks and real estate PAC's and unlike populist Texan Henry Gonzalez, Chair of the Banking Committee, their memories are not troubled by the bank holidays and failures of the pre-Glass-Steagall 30's.

It is early to predict how the debate will turn out, but Nebraska is a key battleground

with both Representatives Hoagland and Bereuter on the House Banking Committee. The bitter battle over the Community Reinvestment Act provided one example of the role they might play. The CRA was passed in 1978 to encourage investment in poor, often minority neighborhoods. The banking lobby has fought hard against its provisions, saying the record keeping requirements are burdensome. Several amendments passed in the Banking subcommittee this spring would have gutted the CRA by exempting 80 percent of the nation's banks from its provisions.

However the amendments were removed in the full committee by a 40 to 12 vote. Deepak Bhargava of the Association of Com-

munity Organization for Reform Now (ACORN) called it a significant victory, "This is the first time the Banking Committee has ever voted in favor of the CRA. It originally slipped through Congress attached to a housing bill." Peter Hoagland (D) Omaha voted to support the CRA while Doug Bereuter (R) Utica voted to weaken its provisions.

It is possible Hoagland and Bereuter will be on opposite sides of more votes. Hoagland has indicated his belief that we need larger, more efficient banks while Bereuter has traditionally been a supporter of smaller independent banks. In any case summer has always been a good time for sequels and S&L II; The Bank Deregulation Caper has only just begun.

Milk Producers, Farm Bureau, USDA Circle Family Farms Like Sharks

by Jeff Kirkpatrick

American dairy farmers are in danger, trying to survive like swimmers in shark-infested waters. The problems they face are important, not only because family dairy farmers are an endangered species, but also because their plight is an illustration of the threats that most American farmers face. The two sharks circling dairy farmers are George Bush's Department of Agriculture and the farm organizations that are supposed to be representing farmers. Both claim to be on the farmer's side, but it is a strange kind of support.

The Ag department's philosophy is fairly clear. You only need to look at the statement made last year by Charles Shaw, head of the USDA dairy section. He told a reporter, "There are just too many dairy farmers and they're too damned efficient. The only thing to do is to keep lowering the price support until you kick the dairy farmers out of business." It is difficult to be clearer than that. And the USDA has been remarkably successful. The wholesale price of milk has dropped 25% in the last year to a 13 year low. Ag analysts say that the average farmer is losing 20 cents to every dollar sold. The results are predictable. At least 4% of the nation's dairy farmers are expected to go out of business by the end of the year. It is important to remember that this drop in prices was no accident. It is the clear result of planned government policy.

A judge sentencing the Bush Ag department for farmer genocide would have a hard time finding room for leniency. They are showing no remorse. The 1990 Farm Bill called for a study of different dairy options and for recommendations to be presented to Congress this summer. The USDA recommended that no changes be made in dairy policy. This is despite the widespread economic distress among dairy farmers and rural communities created by the current policy.

The second shark circling dairy farmers is

just as damaging, and, in ways, more insidious. A number of organizations who claim to represent farmers really do no such thing. One case in point is the recent action by the National Milk Producers Federation. Before the recent round of debate on dairy policy, Representative Charlie Stenholm (D-TX), Chair of the House Dairy subcommittee, stated that he could support a dairy price support level to \$12.60 per hundredweight. Since he has a lot of influence in Congress, this was a strong indication that it would be hard for farmers to get better than \$12.60. But then the week before the dairy hearings began, the National Milk Producers came out with a statement calling for a support price of \$11.60. It is a situation not unlike offering a car dealer \$10,000 for a new car and having him reply he wouldn't take a dollar more than \$9,000.

It was a puzzling phenomenon, at least until one considers who the National Milk Producers are. They are milk processors, middlemen who make their money off the farm-to-market spread and who make some money from low wholesale prices. But the impression is created that farmers can support, or at least live with, lower milk prices. Adding to this problem is the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Farm Bureau is the strange but influential combination of a general farm organization and insurance company. Traditionally conservative, it has opposed practically every progressive idea proposed in the last 50 years, including Social Security, REAs, and minimum wage legislation. But even stranger is the strong stand it has taken against policies that would result in higher farm incomes. Just this spring the Farm Bureau actively opposed a Senate bill which would have temporarily raised dairy prices to what they were a year ago. The Farm Bureau and Bush Administration were successful in stopping the bill.

With large farm organizations and the Bush

administration working for lower farm prices, it is easy to see why urban members of Congress shrug their shoulders and agree. But that doesn't make it right. Family farm agriculture has given us the cheapest and safest food in the world. It worked, in part, because of a strong governmental commitment to family farming, reaching back before the Homestead Act. Family farmers can produce safer food with less damage to the environment than the corporate industrial model.

In dairy there is a clear choice. We can institute a dairy system at a price support level which will support the family farmer. Opponents argue that this will result in higher milk prices that will penalize low income consumers; this is an issue that must be addressed. But it is possible to structure a dairy price support program relying on assessments of farmers rather than public money. This would free federal dollars that could increase food stamp and WIC allocations. It is also possible to run a price support program that doesn't cost the government anything if inventory is controlled.

In any case, it is hypocritical to argue that it is permissible to beggar farmers and rural communities in the short term to provide cheap food. It is especially hypocritical coming from people such as Senator Richard Lugar and the Bush administration, who have never been known for being strong supporters of government nutrition programs, and whose support of a cheap food policy therefore appears to be coming more from a concern for fattening the purses of grain trading companies such as ConAgra and Cargill rather than compassion for the malnourished.

In short, the Bush administration is practicing a policy of genocide aimed at American family farmers and it is being helped by organizations that should be on the farmer's side. Sharks are not very constructive creatures. America deserves better.

Death Penalty Brings Out the Worst in Us

by DeCourcy Squire

Should justice include mercy? And does mercy require justice?

The former question was argued before the Nebraska Pardons Board June 28-29 and the latter question is now being argued in the courts, concerning Harold Otey, a 39 year old African American who has been on Nebraska's Death Row since 1978 after being convicted of the rape murder of a white Omaha woman, Jane McManus.

On June 28 and June 29, the Pardon Board heard 58 people testify in favor of commuting Harold Otey's death sentence to life. Among those testifying were people who had grown to know and care about Wili (as he is known to his friends) during his years on Death Row: state poet William Kloefkorn, UNL philosophy professor Nelson Potter, theologian Harvey Potthoff. They spoke of the ways in which he has changed and developed over the years, of his studying, reading, reflection; of his finding a voice through writing poetry. Thomas Riley, his trial attorney, testified about some of the ways in which Wili was not adequately represented in 1978, and Victor Covalt, his current attorney, pointed out the discrepancy in Wili's having received the death penalty when others convicted of similar or worse crimes have since received life sentences. Ken Mesner, father of a woman who had been raped and murdered, testified to his opposition to the death penalty; a young rape victim also spoke of the need for healing rather than vengeance. Along with this, literally hundreds of letters were submitted urging clemency.

Opposing clemency were members of the McManus family whose pain over the death of Jane McManus remains raw and angry to this day. Two attorneys from the Attorney General's office were there to recount in vivid detail each brutal step of McManus's murder. Letters calling for Otey's execution were also received.

The two sides did little to challenge each other. No one denied that the murder of Jane McManus was a terrible crime. But no one could say that Harold Otey has posed a threat to society during the thirteen years he has been imprisoned or would pose a threat if his death sentence were commuted to life; instead there was much testimony to show that indeed he has managed to make positive changes under extremely adverse conditions.

When the hearing ended, the Board of Pardons adjourned, went into executive session, and came back in approximately an hour with the decision to execute Harold Otey. The vote was two to one; Gov. Nelson and Atty. Gen. Stenberg voted for death; Secretary of State Allen Beermann voted for life. The Board then set the time of execution for the next night at a minute past midnight on July 1.

In the next few days, while opponents of an execution held a vigil at the Governor's Mansion, the case moved back into the courts again. A brief, rejected by U.S. Federal

District Court Judge Urbom, was heard by a three judge panel of the 8th Circuit Court, which granted a temporary stay but rejected the suit two to one.

The validity of the hastily issued death warrant was challenged in Lancaster County District Court and Judge McGinn issued a temporary restraining order. The Attorney General made two unsuccessful forays to the U.S. Supreme Court to try to get the stay issued by the 8th Circuit Court lifted, got a second death warrant issued from Douglas County, and challenged the jurisdiction of the Lancaster County Court to issue a restraining order. The team of volunteer attorneys working desperately to stop the execution had filed a new brief alleging that Otey had been denied a fair hearing before the Pardons Board because the Attorney General had prejudged the case.

Atty. Gen. Stenberg's public statements, his testimony before the Judiciary Committee in January concerning the bill to repeal the death penalty (when he made specific references to the need to execute Otey), and the role of the AG's office in actively opposing clemency at the Pardons Board all point to this.

How Many Must We Jail to Cut Crime?

by Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON—Attorney General Dick Thornburgh has been talking tough. Extra tough. He backs a proposed federal law that would imprison for five years any armed felon who had one prior conviction. There would be "no plea bargaining, no probation, no parole and no more problem to society."

It's the last part that earns Thornburgh high ranking as a hard-liner's hard-liner. It also puts him in a fantasy world, of believing that the automatic caging of people—sentencing by the crime, not the person—means society will have "no more problems" with criminals.

Except we do. The only way Thornburgh's vision can come true is if every criminal receives a life sentence. Currently less than two percent do. Even then, lifers still cause problems, starting with the heavy financial costs to keep them locked away, a tab that reaches as much as \$500 a week in some state.

Thornburgh's "no more problem to society" approach surfaces at a time when his solution to crime has never been as failingly dismal. The prison and jail population, now over a million men and women, is rising at a rate of 13 percent annually. The parallel rise is in crime. The Senate Judiciary Committee reports that in 1990 the United States led the world in the rates of murder, rape and robbery.

While assuming global leadership in violence, the United States appears to be leading also in the number of public officials pushing the delusional belief that more jails and prisons, and stashing more people in them for longer sentences, holds the best promise of

The Attorney General's office responded that since there is no inherent right to a clemency hearing, there is no inherent right that if a hearing is held it has to be fair. This issue will be taken up July 14 and/or 15 before Lancaster Court District Judge McGinn.

Where things go from there is anybody's guess. The case could be back in the court system for years, as the attorneys of the case have optimistically stated, or another death warrant could be signed and approved this summer. If so, Otey's life—or death—could depend on whether or not Gov. Ben Nelson changes his death vote to a life vote—an option he retains up until shortly before the actual execution. Thus opponents of the death penalty have been continuing a daily noon hour vigil at the Governor's mansion.

Some Nebraskans have expressed frustration and dismay that the case is continuing on in the courts. While Wili's attorneys are primarily volunteers who, far from being paid are instead incurring out-of-pocket expenses which will not be reimbursed, the Attorney General's flawed death warrants and fruitless attempts to get the temporary stays lifted are expensive efforts which are paid for with tax dollars.

But questions of justice should not be decided by dollars. The question before the Pardons Board was is it enough that life imprisonment will "protect society", is it enough that this prisoner has friends and family who will deeply mourn his passing, is it enough that from behind bars he has managed to show that he has value and worth as a person? What is the state's responsibility to the McManus family when their pain remains fresh and to them the intervening years and changes since 1978 are irrelevant? Is the execution of Harold Otey a balm that will ease their pain and that they are owed? Or has it been the illusive promise of this execution that has kept the murder alive and vivid, with the long court process reopening the wounds at each new step and politicians using the emotions around the case for personal advancement? Do we really have nothing else to offer the McManus family but a premeditated ritual execution of revenge?

Those such as Ken Mesner who spoke at the hearing about their own personal tragedies and the need for forgiveness, for healing, and for reconciliation presented a message more

Continued on page 11

success. Before Thornburgh, the attorney general was Edwin Meese who in 1988 called for "several billion dollars" to build more prisons where criminals "will no longer be a threat to the public's safety."

What neither Meese nor Thornburgh has ever answered is at what point will the prison rate lower the crime rate? It hasn't to date, but they must have some thoughts on when it will. When two million people are locked up? Fifty million? Nor have they come forward with evidence that they have ever found anyone walking along Broadway at midnight, or Pennsylvania Avenue at noon, who says he or she feels safer because the prisons are fuller.

How has it come about that the failed policies advanced by a succession of attorneys general can still be promoted by officials who surely know better?

Three possible answers exist:

1. With an occasional Jim Bakker, Ivan Boesky or other white-collar criminal as the exception, it's mostly the minorities and poor, along with the jobless and uneducated young, who are being caged. They are seen as undesirable to begin with. About 25 percent of all black males are in the criminal-justice system. American justice pits the power class—well-paid, well-organized and well-educated lawmakers, judges and prosecutors—against the powerless class. What power it may hope to get through education is being denied. The last 10 years saw federal funding to education cut by more than 25 percent, while money to fight crime rose 29 percent. Education is a major force in divert-

ing the young from crime, yet the national pattern is to lay off teachers and hire jailers.

2. Willie Hortonism works. Salvaging criminals is what milk-toasty liberals from Massachusetts want, George Bush told America in 1988. Think otherwise and you pay at the ballot box.

Is there a governor or big-city mayor who consistently goes to the public with the message that prisons don't work while work-release or community-service programs, structured therapy, in-prison job training, restitution, house arrests with electric monitoring, and halfway houses do? Is there a governor or mayor clearheaded and brave enough to argue that prisons represent social vengeance, not social justice?

3. Leniency is portrayed as softness. It's false that anyone opposed to prisons is calling for leniency. Monstrous crimes are committed, with an average of 200 Americans victimized every hour by a violent offense. But with the largest percentage of those now in jail or prison being drug addicts, we have a health problem as much as a crime problem.

Prisons were first used in America 200 years ago. Last year in a speech to the National Association of Pretrial Service Agencies, Donald Lay, chief judge of the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, accurately said the U.S. "criminal justice system is a disgrace...and a complete failure." He called for an immediate overhaul of current policies.

If it weren't for a few voices like that, total hopelessness would prevail.

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LETTERS

Caradori Widow Questions Fairness of '48 Hours'

The national telecast that I witnessed has caused an untimely and emotional upheaval that our family absolutely does not need nor should we have been subjected to. Like Mr. Wadman, my husband has been accused, slandered and libelled but unlike Mr. Wadman, my husband isn't alive to defend himself. Gary A. Caradori and Andrew James Caradori, our 8 year old son, died in a fiery plane crash near Aurora, Illinois on July 11, 1990. I, like Mrs. Wadman also feel the disgust and emotional stress of seeing a husband's reputation and "life long career" being torn apart. Unlike Mrs. Wadman, I stand alone because my husband is dead. How fortunate she is to be able to have the opportunity to stand by her husband, to share a life, to rebuild. I cannot.

Your interview of Mr. Boner was also so biased and unprofessional that I find it very difficult to even discuss it. If your reporter had done a thorough job of research, he would have found how questionable Mr. Boner's allegations have become. I cannot and will not say if Mr. Boner is or is not telling the truth regarding any or all allegations regarding his past. I can and will say that what Mr. Boner has said about my husband is false and slanderous. Your reporter did not take the time to do research on my husband's credentials nor his reputation. Your reporter failed to uncover the questions raised regarding the grand jury's demeanor, report and findings.

Further, no mention was made about the convictions that have resulted from the legislative investigation and my husband's work. No mention was made about the proposed changes in the Social Services standards, child abuse laws or legislation. Why?

It appeared the whole case was surrounding Mr. Wadman. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact his name was only one of many that had surfaced during this investigation. Names that surfaced before my husband was even on the case. For instance, Mr. Peter Citron, a television-radio-newspaper journalist has been convicted and is currently serving a prison term for child molestation. News accounts and investigation have shown that Mr. Citron was a known pedophile for years and was left unchecked, why? I can only conclude that his story would be "old news" or possibly you chose not to report on a fellow reporter. I trust that you have more professional ethics than that.

Alan Baer, a wealthy Omahan has been charged with a plea bargained-down count of pandering. Interestingly enough, Mr. Boner did say that his testimony regarding Mr. Baer wasn't false. On Your program he alleged that all his "stories" were lies????

As you said in our telephone conversation, your program only highlighted certain cases of accusations of child abuse and the damage they can do. What you didn't say in the Omaha segment was what damage it--THE ABUSE--can do. Nor did you address the damage that

Mr. Boner's statements and recantations and grand standing has done to countless people. You did not talk to the head of the Franklin Legislative Committee, Senator Loran Schmit and find out the damage the case has done to him. You did not speak to associates of my husband, to me or to our son. You did not speak to one average Omaha citizen and get his or her gut reaction to this whole mess. Maybe you did some of these things...if you did they weren't aired.

Your report did mention the trial of Alisha Owen. You showed her in chains. Did you interview her mother, her father, her attorney? The jury has been out in deliberations for 3 days. Indeed, they may come back and find her guilty, but the mere fact that it has taken

this long does lend some credibility to the evidence, does it not?

Further, I find the timing of the telecast to be highly questionable. The jury should have been sequestered, at the least, from viewing the program. They were not. They were only instructed not to watch the telecast! Even if they did follow the judge's instructions, the news that followed showed excerpts and gave commentary that could influence their judgement.

Mr. Glauber, I have tried to justify why my husband would, according to Mr. Boner, promise millions for lies to Mr. Boner, while Miss Owen has vehemently denied that my husband ever promised her any money, fame or reward. In fact, in testimony, she has said that

Gary said she could expect a lot of problems and mental anguish. If she did lie, why in God's name would she continue to hold fast to her story when she knew that she could face 160 years of prison. She could have chosen to plea bargain or request some kind of immunity, as did Boner, and be out of jail very soon.

Gary did make a promise to the people who spoke to him, to the people who testified to him. He did promise to stand by any and all persons he interviewed. He attempted to get cooperative investigation into the allegations and further, he strived to investigate any and all claims. He promised to fight for the truth until the day he died.

Gary did that.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Caradori (Mrs. Gary A. Caradori)

Open letter to Walsh

Rail Strike Affects Pay of 1,000 in North Platte

The Presidential Emergency Board is expected to reach its decision July 29.

Dear Mr. Walsh,

I received the latest issue of "Info" magazine this week, and after reading your "Dialogue with the Chairman" I feel it is necessary to respond to you on it and some of the things you have been saying with regards to the National Agreement issues and the Presidential Emergency Board #219.

Instead of "riding" over the rails in your plush business car, you need to come up front or get on the ground where the work is taking place; that way, you might better appreciate the work of those you believe to be "just riding along". I've issued you this invitation before; set aside your CEO title for a week and come out and be a member of a train/engine crew.

You have stated "the carriers negotiated in good faith, as did the unions". You are half right; the unions did, but I wouldn't call what the carriers did for the past 3 years good faith bargaining; stonewalling would be more like it. I firmly believe the carriers had no intentions of working with the operating crafts to get an agreement with us, but rather intended, all along, to have the matter resolved by congress. That way you could point the finger of guilt at the Federal Government and say "they did it, so don't be upset with us"!!

You are correct that the Presidential Emergency Board (P.E.B.) was appointed by President Bush under provisions of the Railway Labor Act, but this was done only as a last step effort, and I would hardly call it "consensual". We had, absolutely, no other choice! The Federal Government really didn't want to get involved with this matter, but the AAR (American Association of Railroads) and the NRCL (National Railroad Labor Conference) forced the issue to come before Congress by not working with us to get an agreement, through

almost 3 years of bargaining or the implementation of the P.E.B.

Then, you and Secretary Skinner had the audacity to go before Chairman, Al Swift, of the House subcommittee (who finally wrote the legislation that ended the strike) and testify that P.E.B. #219 should be fully implemented as it was written. You showed your true feelings about rail labor then, Mr. Walsh. You, absolutely, do not care about the disastrous effects this P.E.B. is going to have on every agreement employee and their family on railroads under National handling. The carriers' public relations people have put out a great deal of misinformation as it relates to the so-called 10 percent pay increase over the life of the agreement. The so-called signing bonuses don't make up for what we have lost in the last three years, due to inflation, etc. It is the first time I can recall that a 10 percent pay increase will result in an average cut in pay (for an engineer) at the end of the agreement (in 1991) of \$5,000.00. This is due to a change in the way U.P. accounts for the miles a worker logs. Couple this amount with other agreements that U.P. is currently arbitrating against its employees (e.g.: South Morrill coal pool out of Wyoming's Powder River Basin) a trainman or engineer stands to lose over \$10,000.00 a year from what he is making right now. The money the carrier is going to reap from this is going to go to the bottom line, isn't it Mr. Walsh? And a better bottom line, means a better "personal" bottom line for you and the rest of top management who will share in better salary and bonuses, doesn't it?

I realize that \$10,000.00 probably doesn't seem like a lot of money to someone who made over \$1,200,000.00 in 1990 (salary, bonuses, thrift plans, non-cash compensation and annuities), but when these disastrous pay cuts go into effect, what effect do you think it

is going to have on businesses in communities where the railroad is the main industry, such as North Platte? I'll tell you what it will do; their doors will close, because railroaders will have to cut back on their spending. It will also have an adverse effect on federal, state, and local government and its ability to provide services to its citizens, because of lost tax revenues. If this \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 loss was for only a few employees, it would probably be shrugged off and forgotten, but we are talking about close to 1,000 employees in the city of North Platte, alone. But, why should the railroads care about that, as long as their bottom line keeps on improving?

Union Pacific Railroad has enjoyed record profits for over the last five years; productivity of its employees has greatly increased as the number of employees has steadily decreased. We are all doing more with less; road crews are working more and "at home less" than any time in the past decade; we are forced to work more than our normal miles or hours as the carrier will not hire enough people to get the work done, and we are harassed, by the carrier, when we try to lay off and still the carrier wants more, from us. I say enough Mr. Walsh! The carrier would do well to start treating its employees as human beings, instead of expendable numbers.

Your arguments favoring implementation of P.E.B. #219 probably seem very sound to someone outside of the rail industry, but please don't try and have us believe what you are telling them. We know better. This entire situation that we find ourselves in on a National basis and closer to home, with Union Pacific can be adequately summed up in two words: "Corporate Greed".

Sincerely,
Dick Merklin
North Platte, Neb.

Report From the Compact Commission Meeting

by Jan Calinger

Lincoln - Gov. Ben Nelson provided what some Nebraskans consider the first true representation of their home state on the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission, at its annual business meeting here.

The meeting, which was held in the auditorium of the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education on June 24, was looked at with some optimism by Boyd County officials.

"Obviously, it's going to be different this year," Paul Allan, Co-Chairman of Save Boyd County, said. "I think it will be more productive, I think we've got the commissioners' attention, and maybe they're going to do some different things, some things they should be doing."

Lowell Fisher, a former Save Boyd County chairman who is most famous for his hunger strike last year, believes that a major factor in this year's meeting is having Nelson on the commission. "Nebraska actually has a commissioner now," he said. "Outstate generators have always had five commissioners because Nebraska's commissioner was always serving them rather than the citizens of Nebraska."

"Of course, now we have our governor as our commissioner," Fisher said. "I think that will make a big difference."

However, some were less optimistic about the meeting. "In terms of substantive things that are accomplished, in terms of policies that will protect Nebraskans, I don't have a lot of hope that there will be new protections that

will move forward after this meeting," said Lynn Moorer, a former Save Boyd County chairperson. "I'm very concerned that the most important of the substantive issues are still being glossed over."

One great difference of the 1991 meeting from the 1990 meeting was the absence of Raymond Peery, who is being charged with embezzling money from the commission. Peery's embezzling was reflected in a document given to the public by the commission.

For the 1990-91 fiscal year, \$4,000.00 was delegated for "miscellaneous expenses." However, over \$100,000.00 was actually spent for this purpose.

The meeting started with approval of actions taken since the past year. In other words, the commission voted, among other things, to officially approve Peery's suspension and the hiring of Nebraska Attorney General A. Eugene Crump as the interim director. After the approval of actions, there was a 90-minute-long public speaking session which consisted of three-minute speeches by people who signed a document saying that they wished to speak.

The first two speakers, who refused to identify themselves to this reporter, were the only two dump supporters who spoke. "John Doe", the first to speak, argued that the dump was not dangerous. "I think that we do have a safe site. With proper watchfulness, we have a plan that is sensible and is workable."

His partner argued that the feud over the dump was a continuation of a feud started a

century ago over the construction of a Boyd County railroad.

Paulette Blair, a lifelong resident of Boyd County, argued that the commission has little regard for Boyd residents because they do not live close to the area. "I think that you, ...the quintessential NIMBY's of the world, are overjoyed that it will not be your land and people that will be pillaged and discarded in the name of greed and stupidity," she said.

After the public session, critics claimed that the commission did not listen to the speeches very well. "They [the commissioners] appeared to listen, but you [a speaker] always get the same reaction; they sit there like mannequins and don't answer anybody," Ava Peterson, a Boyd County resident, said. "I'll be surprised if we get decent answers."

After the session, those who did not receive a chance to speak were promised a chance to speak after official business was taken care of - if any extra time was left (It wasn't; the meeting ran an hour after its scheduled end).

After official reports by the executive director and the chairman, the commission went into "Executive Session," which was held behind closed curtains, and then adjourned for lunch.

Directly after lunch, there were several reports made. Among the reports was one made by Government Liaison Walter Radcliffe, whose role in the establishment of the dump was debated. While Radcliffe was officially a liaison, some of his actions were debated as being like those of a lobbyist. While it is not known whether or not Radcliffe himself was being paid for his "lobbying," it is known that \$55,000.00 was spent on lobbying fees in 1991-92. No money was delegated beforehand for this purpose, and none had been set aside for the 1991-92 fiscal year.

After the reports, the commission discussed new business. But the biggest issue

discussed that afternoon was a proposed audit for the commission, which, if passed, would be conducted by the State Auditor's office. The first proposed audit, proposed by Nelson, was defeated 3-2 on grounds that it was not well-defined and that the auditor's office was not qualified to conduct it.

"I don't have an objection to an audit," US Ecology Vice President Richard Paton said. "A financial audit is something that we're more than willing to participate with. The concern that I have is, it's so loosey-goosey in terms of what is being discussed as a performance audit. It's not laid out in detail, what they want to look at, ... and my concern is that it will not be done by competent individuals that understand the technical decisions that have had to be made."

Paton doesn't believe that the State Auditor's Office is qualified to conduct a performance audit. "[The office is] not [qualified] to review technical decisions that were made. I don't think that the state auditor has the technical capabilities to determine whether or not a 2-inch pipe for drilling is better than a 3-inch pipe."

But though his proposal was defeated, Nelson was confident that US Ecology would soon be audited. "We're going to get it [the audit] through," Nelson said.

Comments after the meeting were generally positive. "I thought he [Nelson] was masterful," Fisher said. "I thought he was extremely effective and brought up many points... I believed that Nebraska's never had representation on this compact commission before. We've had people there, but they were not representing Nebraska very well. Now we do have someone representing Nebraska very well."

Fisher also believed that the compact has slowed. "It's going to be hard to get it slower than it already is. I'm not sure that they're making any progress."

Grassley on Vote Against War

by David Yepsen

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U.S. Senator Charles Grassley said Saturday that he does not regret his vote against the Persian Gulf War and said subsequent events proved him right.

The Iowa senator voted against giving President Bush, a fellow Republican, authority to go to war.

"I do not regret that vote," Grassley said. "As time goes on and we're still having problems over there, the more that's a certain vote."

Grassley made his comments during taping of the Iowa Public Television program "Iowa Press," which airs today.

"The president's agenda was to go there, shoot it out, free Kuwait and get out. My agenda was to establish alternatives to war," he said.

He said if sanctions in place against Iraq

"had been perfected, we would have had a credible alternative to war well into the future."

"Basically, that's out the window now. I think if the United States says we're going to impose sanctions, it's going to be seen as a first step to go to war, and it's not a credible threat," he said.

"Our main reason for going to war was oil," he said. "We have weakened the fourth-largest military, but Saddam Hussein is still a threat in the area."

Grassley said he was worried his lone opposition to a Republican president's war policies would mean political retribution, but that has not occurred.

"Not once has anybody said anything to me about it," Grassley said.

Grassley also said he will run for re-election next year. Grassley said he should be re-elected because of his work to curb excessive military spending.

MY MISSION IN LIFE

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Who Abused Paul Bonacci?

Continued from page 1

of the big ones.

F.M. And did Larry King fly usually out of Sioux City, is that what you said?

P.B. Um hmm. (affirmative)

F.M. Did he ever fly out of Omaha?

P.B. We flew out of Omaha usually on commercial planes that I remember were never booked like (?) commercial planes. So they'd book our ticket and call us a different name or something.

David Thorstadt is a founding member of NAMBLA, the North American Man Boy Love Association. This New York based group can be reached at 212-807-8578. The outgoing message on their machine clearly identifies the group's goals.

F.M. Where would you stay?

P.B. Usually in one of the guys' homes in New York.

F.M. What guys?

P.B. David Thorstadt

F.M. David Thorstadt? Wayne Sunday.

F.M. Who's Wayne Sunday?

P.B. He's kind of a big round fat bald guy.

F.M. Is he associated with anybody else?

P.B. Yeah, with David Thorstadt. He's in NAMBLA.

F.M. He's in NAMBLA?

P.B. ... (unintelligible), Hugh Hammell

F.M. Hugh Hammell?

P.B. And Larry King. We had meetings at this church out there. First Community that was in Boston.

F.M. What kind of meetings?

P.B. NAMBLA

F.M. What would happen at the meetings?

P.B. Well at the meetings they would have, they would talk about what they were going to they would also have it was pretty well organized they'd check out everybody with this number (unintelligible) came in and auctioned off for the night and they deny that they do that but they do.

Bonacci had a great deal to say about Alan Baer. The Observer attempted unsuccessfully to contact Mr. Baer by calling the number listed for him in the telephone book, as well as by asking people known to associate with him how to reach him.

We are aware of a number of stories about Baer doing such things as paying for AIDS treatment for people, and helping another person get drug treatment. Many ex-lovers of his remember acts of kindness by him. Some also question whether he would involve himself with a minor.

F.M. Were Alan Baer and King working together kind of or were they just doing their own things?

P.B. Most of the time they were doing their own things. They did have uh some state, mutual interest in the state parks.

...

P.B. Yeah, I was there. (Unintelligible) drugs and the parties.

F.M. Who brought them? Where'd they come from?

P.B. There was I don't know who brought them, they were either there when we got there so...they all lived in a... most of the time I don't remember Alan Baer drinking too much he was mainly drinking pop or something. Last time I would stop in there. There were no uh, I don't remember seeing King taking any drugs or anything. But I know that he knew that there were drugs around there. Whether or not...

F.M. He knew what?

P.B. He had to have known that there were drugs around at his parties.

F.M. Ok

P.B. And they were sometimes very obvious smoking. And you'd walk into a room and he would be snorting coke or doing some acid, kind of hard not to...

F.M. You said Alan Baer, you never saw him drink, is that right?

P.B. Yeah I never seen him drink.

F.M. Did you ever see him do any drugs?

P.B. No. But it, you know, I don't know whether he had any fix down, you know, being without drugs, he tried at his apartment, one of his apartments at Twin Towers he always had a refrigerator full of pop, he'd always have diet pop in the refrigerator.

As Mikey

P.B. He (Alan Baer) started threatening his family and then in '86 he started receiving threats out where he's living at he started receiving threats that they would, by Walter Carlson and some of the other guys that were being investigated at the time. And even by Baer mostly if we ever came if it came out with anything that uh they would kill us, they would start killing our friends. In which at first it didn't bother me see because we figured they didn't know where any of our friends were. 'Till we started seeing notes on our window of our trailer on our my room and we'd read it and we'd sit there and talk about what my friends look like and then we saw (unintelligible) walking with them or something across the cornfields going to QuikShop and which started scaring us and stuff and they knew their name and stuff and that started scaring us because we figured well we protect ourselves but we can't protect our friends all the time.

...

P.B. First time I met Alan Baer was on the "run."

F.M. What do you mean?

P.B. There's a strip through Omaha called the run.

F.M. The run?

P.B. Yeah, the run. The milk run.

F.M. The milk run?

P.B. Yeah, it's now it runs by the Run, it goes right in front of the correctional center in Omaha or right behind it.

F.M. Like the Run bar?

P.B. Yeah. Used to be called I think the Cave

F.M. Ok.

P.B. Then there was the Max but it's (unintelligible) called the Hollywood, so that was something else. The Diamond Bar is not on the, isn't where it's at now, cause now it's at a part they used to call (unintelligible), but I used to work there as a bartender. Across the street from the bus station now, which is probably one-way.

F.M. So when was it that you met Alan Baer, what year?

P.B. 1979. It was same time I met Peter Citron.

F.M. How did you run into him, what were you doing.

P.B. I was with (unintelligible) and we were on the run.

F.M. When you say on the run does that mean you ran away from home or what?

P.B. No, I was, being on the run is being it's a it's like a area where prostitutes hang out. Male prostitutes in Omaha hang out on the run.

F.M. So when you're on the run does that mean you, what do you do? What do you do when you're on the run?

P.B. When you're on it usually you sell yourself.

F.M. Do you meet people there that you arranged on the phone, do you just stand there, how does it happen?

P.B. Yeah. Most of the time you just meet people that are driving by and it's like one way you can tell if it's a cop or not if you look at the license plates...The Omaha police they use plates that say "city government" on them, they're detective cars. And when you seen a car that had city detective — or no it's city government — on it you never tried to get picked up by that and the person, you ask him, "are you a cop?"

F.M. Yeah.

P.B. And they have to tell you they're a cop.

F.M. Amazing.

...

P.B. I remember (unintelligible) one time I broke this guy's window in his car. And the police arrived, and this one officer was going to make a report about it. And Alan Baer came out of the Club Max, came out of it and told the guy, he paid the guy money so the cop made no report. I didn't get in any trouble, he just paid for the window.

Bonacci also recalls that Baer would give him money for "transportation," \$60, although he lived only six blocks away from Baer's apartment in Twin Towers.

P.B. I heard from someone they had good security there (at Twin Towers) it's like, if they had good security there, I'd like to find it. It's like you walk in and if you act like you know where you're going, kind of go up there and go up, once you get up there to the floor you're going to you've got to get on the phone and call anyway, call the apartment, they figure you know it's really easy to get into that door, the glass built in around it.

F.M. And you never had any trouble?

Bonacci Is Willing To Submit To Lie Detector Test

The Nebraska Observer is attempting to make arrangements to have a lie detector test administered to Paul Bonacci. Bonacci's attorney has expressed an interest in this and says Bonacci himself will cooperate fully.

It may take some time to make arrangements for this. Both DeCamp and the Observer appreciate the special professional challenge presented by administering a polygraph to a person with multiple personalities: each person with a story to tell must be tested. For that reason, it seems desirable to select the examiner with great care. Additionally, since there are no longer criminal charges against Bonacci, the cost of the exam must be addressed somehow; it will not be born by the county prosecutor's office.

P.B. No I'd just go up there and call the number that we were told to give the guy.

F.M. Were they somebody's apartment?

P.B. Yeah, these were Alan Baer's apartments.

F.M. Did he answer the phone?

P.B. Yes, usually he'd answer the phone.

F.M. Was he expecting you.

P.B. Yeah, he was expecting us. Whenever we'd go up there he was always expecting anyone. Sometimes where they'd try to get by, where they'd get some extra people, they'd have one person go into the apartment and they'd have two, they'd have one guy who had to stand (unintelligible) in the fire escape, you'd have one guy down there and you'd have one guy on the floor where the party was at with the door open so that you could get in, at the door so you'd have like ten, fifteen kids go up the fire escape. Well you didn't have to pass the guard.

One of the three counts of perjury the grand jury indicted Bonacci for was his allegation of being molested by someone named Harry Andersen who he believes is Harold Andersen of the World-Harold. Anderser declined to be interviewed for this article.

P.B. Nobody has ever showed me a picture of Harold Andersen, to this day, and said this is Harold Andersen. I've been shown pictures of people that I said was Harold Andersen, to, by R. S. , but he's the first one and that was just a couple of months ago. But he's never verified whether or not that it was. So I don't know whether or not that it was the same guy but I know it was the guy that I know as Harry Andersen. Whether or not his real name is Harry Andersen or not, I don't know.

...

P.B. And the other thing was about Harold Andersen, saying it was Harold Andersen who was the ex-editor from the World-Herald. And I've always maintained about that was the fact that I've never been shown a picture. And I'm remembering what this guy told me about saying that he was a journalist, a writer, and he ran a local paper.

F.M. So you're pretty sure, but you've never been shown a picture identifying..

P.B. Yes. I'm pretty sure. One reason I'm pretty sure is because I don't think that I don't think if this guy didn't have anything to hide about or hide or didn't have anything to worry about him doing things they wouldn't be slandering himself so much, they wouldn't be putting down so much with Alisha. Cause he was innocent there shouldn't be need for him to go through all this stuff that he's done by putting down everybody. And I think that the thing is it would be hard if they did go to trial to try to find any of my friends to go against me. I've had friends from 1984 that I've told about this who'd give their testify to that fact that I have..

F.M. Would they name names?

P.B. I don't think they'd be able to because I never really told any names then.

F.M. Tell me about your encounters with Harry Andersen.

P.B. That's the most uncomfortable person to talk about because he used to, he was degraded, to me. He'd always want tie you up or tie me up or tie me up with other kids I went with. He had me, he had this game where he'd take a cigarette and he'd make us have sex with each other and lay it on the fronts of our chests or something, push it together with the cigarette still lit. And he'd burn our genitals and..

F.M. You and who else?

P.B. Other kids that went to these parties or that were with him up there in the Red Lion Inn.

F.M. They were parties?

P.B. At the Red Lion? No they were just, we would, at the Red Lion you could go in either front way or the back way. You can go by the gift shop whenever you go in there, that's where if you go in you go up the elevator. And you go to whatever floor they tell you to.

F.M. How would you know what room to go to?

P.B. Other kids would know.

Bonacci recalled that it was a different room every time, sometimes a different hotel, Holiday Inn, Howard Johnson's.

F.M. Did he come after you got there or was he there waiting?

P.B. He was usually there waiting, usually alone. He had a camera sometimes, or a guy taking pictures.

F.M. Do you know the person's name?

P.B. No.

...

F.M. Why did you do it? Did he pay you, were you afraid, you know, what...

P.B. He paid, sometimes I was afraid. Because if I didn't do something I was told to do by Baer or, any of the guys that they would get I could get beat up or threatened.

F.M. What made you think that Baer would find out, were they connected?

(Nods)

F.M. How were they connected?

P.B. Well I saw Andersen at parties with Baer all the time. In 1983 I got so upset at Harold Andersen because in 1983 he was hanging around a kid named Andy, me and Andy were like brothers, we were so close, you couldn't really separate us. Andy lived in South Omaha. And Harold Andersen was coming on to him, and (unintelligible) we totally ran Andersen off that night. Told him never to go around him again.

F.M. You who?

P.B. All the guys.

F.M. You all ganged up on him.

P.B. (nods)

F.M. What happened?

P.B. Harold Andersen got Andy in the bedroom, they were having sex.

F.M. Who else was at that party?

P.B. That I can remember? Alan Baer. Barksdale or something like that, he was from Boys' Town. John or something, Barkstel. He used to pick me up from all over the place and take me. A guy that looked like P.J. Morgan. But he isn't P.J. Morgan

...

Bonacci recalled that Harry Andersen had a scar across his abdomen, mostly horizontal but sloped a little. He then drew a picture of it.

Bonacci, as Alexander, recalled the boy named Andy, referred to above.

F.M. Can we talk about a kid named Andy? Who are we talking to?

P.B. Alexander. He was kind of always dirty. Used to hang around with Alan Baer and Pete Citron a lot. Used to remind me of Joey, looked a lot alike, about the same size, had the same facial features, but not exactly. He was younger. In 83 he would have been about 12 or 13. I used to hang around with him like he was a little brother, like when me and him were together.

...

P.B....most of the time he did it because his family was poor and needed the money. And his mom even saw what was going on. She lived in South Omaha near some school.

F.M. What did he look like?

P.B. Dirty blonde hair. Didn't really have anything else about him, a cute little kid. He had a lot of problems, though. He didn't like his mom very well. He didn't like anybody very well. I was about the first person ever got to him and talked to him.

I don't want to see anybody hurt him. Now he's hanging out by the run. Saw him in 89 about a month before I got arrested.

Another count of perjury that Bonacci was charged with was saying that he had

seen Alisha Owen and Robert Wadman having sex.

P.B. As far as saying I saw Wadman and Alisha having sex, that night I remember that since the personalities have been talking to each other, one personality saw Alisha and Wadman together and the next thing that he saw was Alisha having sex with somebody. And actually there was about an hour or two in between that. And the person that was actually having sex with her we believe was Troy Boner. So when we (Bonacci refers to his personalities in the plural) talked to the grand jury we didn't have the communication, we can now know that there was two hours (amnesia is a common problem for people with multiple personalities) in between. Mikey went into the bathroom, he's the one that said that he saw them having sex, that he went into the bathroom and then that's when a kid by the name of Andy went with him, he had some LSD and then he switched to Alexander and Alexander came out, and they went back into the bathroom then Mikey came out and he thought he just went in and he looked back in the bedroom and he saw Alisha, or this girl and guy having sex, and he saw Alisha and Wadman when he went in the bathroom. So he figured that they had to have been having sex, they were the same people.

F.M. Do you think it was the same people?

P.B. I have no idea. Alexander came out and saw Troy Boner with her too.

F.M. Are you confident that Alisha was with Wadman?

P.B. Yes.

F.M. But not so sure that she had sex with him, is that accurate?

P.B. That's accurate.

The third count of perjury against Bonacci was for saying he saw Wadman use cocaine.

P.B. They said I saw Wadman use drugs, or use cocaine. Which I remember talking to the grand jury and saying I saw him in a room where people were taking drugs. That's what I said to (unintelligible) to the police, to everybody. And how that ever got to the grand jury that I saw him take drugs

Bonacci, like Alisha Owen, recalls parties at Twin Towers and a person named Larry the Kid.

P.B. Also that night Larry King was there, I think Wadman came, but he came in later. Just about the time school started in 83. At the Twin Towers. I'm trying to remember, the penthouse or the apartment downstairs. Cause he had four or five apartments downstairs.

F.M. He who?

P.B. Larry. I think this was at one of the apartments. I don't think this was at the penthouse.

There were a bunch of young people that were there. Troy Boner was there, Danny King, Larry the Kid.

...

F.M. Who's Larry the Kid?

P.B. A guy that liked to beat up all the kids, liked to make pizza out of their faces. He was kind of big and he didn't look like a kid to me.

F.M. What did he look like?

P.B. (Unintelligible) black, big. Fat, he wasn't that tall.

F.M. What was he doing there?

P.B. He would mess around with some of the guys that were there, I never had anything to do with him cause I didn't like him or Larry King either. He worked at a hotel (unclear) for Alan Baer. Alan Baer is the one who'd tell him what to do and he'd do it.

I only went with him once and he drove a Mercedes.

F.M. What's his real name?

P.B. I don't know. There's a guy in here now named Bentley Buckner who has threatened me since I've been here, and there's a little bit of resemblance between the two of them cause Bentley's real short, but then again I've grown a lot since that time.

F.M. So you don't think they're the same person, or do.

P.B. I'm not sure.

F.M. Why does Bentley Buckner threaten you.

P.B. He worked for Alan Baer, or did work for him. He was at those parties on and off while he was not in prison. I've heard that he's been contacting Baer.

F.M. How does he do that?

P.B. Call him.

Bonacci was committed to Nebraska Psychiatric Institute in 1986. According to him at the time, April 22, 1986, the police were called and interviewed him and he told of his history of abuse, naming the Omahans who had allegedly abused him. The mother of a friend had contacted his school, Northwest High, and the school had called in Diane Zipay, who was then working as a student personnel assistant for OPS. Bonacci says the police interviewed him at that time. His mother told the Observer that at the time Zipay and the doctors at NPI told her that he had been repeatedly assaulted, but not by a member of the family. The Observer contacted the Police Department about the incident but they could find no record of it.

P.B. There was a report to the police in '86, first time I named people, Walter Carlson, Joe Burke, Harry Andersen, Peter Citron, Alan Baer, Larry King. They laughed.

F.M. Do you remember who it was — who the police officers were?

P.B. I wish I could.

F.M. When did they do this interview with you?

P.B. Same day (I was committed) after school. Principal and assistant principal had to leave for a few minutes and they could talk to me alone. I was sent to NPI because the school

Continued on next page

Bonacci

Continued from previous page

and the Omaha Police Department wanted me to go.

Bonacci did not identify Harry Andersen at the time as Harold Andersen the publisher.

F.M. So did the police have any reason to think at the time it was the same person?

P.B. I don't think so.

By far the most chilling part of Bonacci's story is about ritual satanic cult abuse. Although we make no pretense at understanding the significance of this story, we include it here because it is compelling and because it bears some resemblance to stories of satanic abuse that we understand were told to the grand jury by a girl whose name has not been in print but who was referred to as "a young Omaha girl." The grand jury report said "she has suffered more abuse and neglect than anyone should ever have to endure."

P.B. (As Mikey): They used to say that they would try to kill my family, and kill me.

F.M. Who?

P.B. Baer, King, Andersen, all of them. The only two who didn't threaten me were Carlson and Burke. They only threatened me at the end and they got arrested in '86.

F.M. Why did you believe that they were serious?

P.B. Because they used to beat me up sometimes. And I saw them also hurt other kids.

F.M. Did you believe that they would kill somebody?

P.B. They did.

F.M. Who did they kill?

P.B. It was in California. They were, Larry King were out around flying to Stockton, (unintelligible) around we picked up Nicholas who went out with us and when we got there I don't know where we landed at or where we were at, they had me tied and drugged up. They took us out to a place and all I can remember is that there was a Kern River or something that went by, there was a bridge that had the name on it. It was near there that we would wait. And they had this little boy that was in a cage when we got there and they told us me and Nicholas to put on these Tarzan suits. First they told us we better do what they told us.

They told us we'd better do what they wanted or they'd kill us too. So we did everything they told us to.

F.M. What did they tell you to do?

P.B. Sacrifice(?), and torturing this child. And I didn't want to, and we were me and Nicholas were both crying, and we didn't like what they were making us do.

F.M. Was the kid littler than you?

P.B. Probably...eleven

F.M. How old were you?

P.B. I don't remember.

F.M. Do you remember what year it was?

P.B. '84. And they had one guy that came in

and they were having sex with him.

F.M. Having sex with the little kid.

P.B. They used us as rag dolls. Then they put me shoved me and Nicholas in the cage. They had the boy outside the cage and shot him in the head.

F.M. Who shot him in the head?

P.B. The guy that (unintelligible). Then they took me and Nicholas out into the woods and they took me out into the other side. They made us have sex before they took us away from him, he was dead. They took Nicholas off in the woods and they took me out and I heard a shot...(unintelligible) up in the air by where I was at and I didn't see Nicholas till later on in the day and I thought they had killed him too. He said (unintelligible) he thought they'd killed me. (Unintelligible).

F.M. Who was there that you know the names of.

P.B. Larry King and a guy named Hunter, the guy that was (unintelligible).

F.M. Does Hunter have another name?

P.B. I don't know. Thomas or something like that.

F.M. What did he look like?

P.B. Kind of he had glasses on or some kind of weird glass that he was wearing. I hadn't seen them like that before. He was kind of tall, white, greying hair, had a white belt on and (unintelligible)..

F.M. Do you know anything else about Hunter?

P.B. (negative)

F.M. Do you know anything else about the place where you were?

P.B. Kern River, it's near Bakersfield.

F.M. What else do you remember about Bakersfield?

P.B. There were some other people and they were into witchcraft and stuff that Zacharai knew all about and said they were into witchcraft and they used to sexually abuse kids. (Zacharai is another personality.)

That's what they did with the body, they gave him to, they took the body and were flying the plane and flying low and when they dropped the body out they said "Let the (?) Mehr go ahead and take care of it."...

F.M. Ok, go on so what did they do that night.

P.B. They were having human sacrifice.

F.M. Another person?

P.B. Another kid they'd brought him there and stuff and he was crying and screaming something, and the priest picked him up and (unintelligible) lady came up and just (gestures) cut him up.

F.M. Cut him up his chest, is that where you're pointing?

P.B. Yeah and the priest had blood all over and Larry King just...

F.M. The priest held him and the woman cut him?

P.B. (Nods) Larry King just came out.

F.M. That was at night.

P.B. (Nods)

F.M. Was it some kind of ceremony?

P.B. Um hmm.

F.M. And what happened then?

P.B. They were chanting, (unintelligible) having sex with the dead bodies.

F.M. There were two dead bodies?

P.B. Um hmm. They were eating the dead bodies, thirteen adults there.

F.M. So thirteen adults had to eat two dead bodies; did they eat it all?

P.B. No they'd keep the red parts and eat certain things like eyes and the rest of the bodies, like bones were always used for making tools and ground up. (Unintelligible). Larry King had his driver pick us up and take us back.

F.M. What's his driver's name?

P.B. I don't know.

F.M. And he picked you up in this place near the Kern River in Bakersfield, and took you where.

P.B. Took us back to the hotel.

F.M. Where?

P.B. I don't know because when we got in the car me and Nicholas fell asleep.

F.M. Have you been to other ceremonies where they eat body parts?

P.B. (Nods)

F.M. How many do you think you've been to.

P.B. Four or five. Zacharai's been to four or five. How many has Mikey been to?

P.B. None.

F.M. Has anybody else been to any?

P.B. Lehai and Malachai have. A boy was killed when I was three. Mark can tell us about it.

F.M. Are you Mark?

P.B. Yes. We hung out with each other when I was four.

Living, I remember my mom used to go to work and I would try to chase her to work. She'd be going on getting on a bus and I'd try to follow her actually. A couple up the street gave him cookies. They were ok.

A weird guy lived close to us would take me home too, but he (unintelligible) started to harm me(?).

Down in the basement he had a little altar, not a human altar, which they have in some of the cults like the Northwest cult, which is a teenage girl who is a virgin. That was one of the altars, they used her as an altar.

F.M. They used her as an altar. And what kind of altar did this guy have?

P.B. He just had it was like a, made out of wood, oak.

He had this little boy that was down there he was probably about two years old, and I was only about four. He made me have sex with the boy.

F.M. Intercourse?

P.B. (Nods). And I was doing it, he started cutting the boy.

F.M. Was he an old guy?

P.B. No, he was in his twenties.

F.M. So it was just you and him and the two-year-old.

P.B. Um hmm. He started cutting him. He kept telling me that he was putting the boy's spirit in me and then afterwards he told me the boy wasn't really hurt that was just a game (unin-

telligible).

That's how Alec was formed cause Alec is only about two years old and he doesn't talk or speak, he's a baby person. He kind of represents the baby that was killed.

He took the boy's skin off and put it on me and that's why (unintelligible) I want to take five or six showers I'm like washing my hands but I can't get the blood off. I always see it, it's right there.

F.M. Counting everybody, how many satanic rituals do you think you participated in?

P.B. Twenty-five to thirty.

...

Bonacci mentioned some places in Nebraska.

P.B. The underground in Elkhorn, it's like a sewer system.

One like that in Bellevue. Durand's been there.

There was the triangle in Bellevue, in the sewer system, called a triangle because there were three priests that lived there with the sewer system in the middle. One was the high priest, one was the next, and one was a priest in another group. One was with the Shadows. They don't live there any more. It's been turned into a Christian yard. One guy lived across from the school yard, he could use that to lure kids into the cult. They like to get them when they're elementary through junior high because that's when they're most influencable.

...

F.M. You mentioned a human altar, how did you know about that?

P.B. Because they've had it. Larry didn't think that the sacrifices of the animals or of the um ..or they have it when it would be impregnating the girl for the sacrifice of her child when it was born. It's kind of done to mock the Christian religion, it's done on the 22nd of December, 21st or 22nd. The acorns are used as part of the ritual to impregnate her.

F.M. I don't understand.

P.B. I don't understand either, all I know is that there were acorns that were used that were place up in her at the time to help.

F.M. Did it have something to do with making her get pregnant?

P.B. Um hmm. I know it's weird, but everything we do in the cult is weird.

F.M. Did you see them impregnate a girl?

P.B. (Nods)

F.M. More than once?

P.B. Just one is all I saw. And we sacrificed the baby. They would cut the mother up and then take the baby out alive and they sacrificed it. And the third person in the cult would have to eat the eyeballs which Malachai was third that time, but he was out of favor.

F.M. Where was this?

P.B. At the triangle or the woods.

F.M. Which is down in Bellevue?

P.B. Near Fontenelle Forest.

F.M. Where's the triangle?

Continued on next page

Common Misconceptions About the Owen Trial

Continued from page 7

drawn a different conclusion had he actually listened to what Alisha was saying. Also testified that he has "a habit of calling the FBI to see what's going on," but that he does not have a working relationship with them. It is no surprise that someone who networked in any way with law enforcement people would hear things that discredited Alisha.

11. Alisha said Wadman would pick her up at Central High School on Wednesdays and take her to a motel for sex. That's incredible that someone as easily recognized as he is would risk doing that?

Alisha actually said that Wadman picked her up three times, on Wednesdays, only once at a bus stop near Central, the other two times at what was then the McDonald's restaurant at the Galleria Mall. She would stand in a place over Douglas street and watch for him.

The rest of the times someone else, usually Larry "the Kid," came for her.

12. What will happen now?

As this is being written, a retrial has been sought. More likely would be an appeal, with new evidence brought in.

There are many people who know of the parties that King held referred to by Alisha. The prosecution's "proof" that Larry King wasn't a tenant at Twin Towers until 1987 is laughable to anyone who knows residents of the building or Old Market personalities.

The prosecution also left the impression with the jury that the characters described by Alisha were products of fantasy, but many are

known around town. One that could surface in the next trial is Larry "the kid."

13. So you're saying the whole thing was true? Get real!

It is true that there are holes in Owen's case. People who know Wadman and Andersen doubt that they would take the kind of risk involved in an exploitive sexual relationship with a minor. People who know Alan Baer doubt whether he would have anything to do with drugs. It is, however, just as reasonable to question what Alisha had to gain by lying initially and then by sustaining that lie for over a year. Neither question really has a satisfactory answer.

Furthermore, Alisha could have called it wrong on—or lied about—Carlson. She failed to identify him on some photos. On the other hand, her description of his penis (3" erect) was not disputed by the prosecution's witness, his physician, who, under cross-examination, admitted that the exam was done without an erection. One bit of evidence that the defense tried to get in concerned a health problem of Judge Carlson that homosexuals sometimes have, a fistula. Prosecuting Attorney Moran objected and the evidence was not allowed.

14. What about the blood tests?

See remark #5.

It seems just as reasonable to ask about her knowledge of descriptive details about Wadman. Owen mentioned a bunion, freckles, and uncircumcised penis. Although the prosecution had both Wadman and his physician on the stand, none of those three descriptions were disputed.

Bonacci Interview

Continued from previous page

P.B. There's actually two triangles, there's one with the sewer system and one in the woods.

F.M. Then did they eat the whole body?

P.B. They only eat certain parts of it. They eat the flesh and there is what they call communion in Christian and stuff. And it was just done, they mixed urine and blood and (unintelligible) drink it. The way they'd get it they'd have somebody they'd (unintelligible) cut you right here and then drain the blood out of you (on his wrist).

They drew blood from him three or four times.

F.M. What year was that?

P.B. 1984.

F.M. When was the last time you were involved in a satanic ritual?

P.B. 1984.

F.M. Where was that.

P.B. Out in California when they took the kid

F.M. They shot in the head.

F.M. And when was the first time?

P.B. 1979.

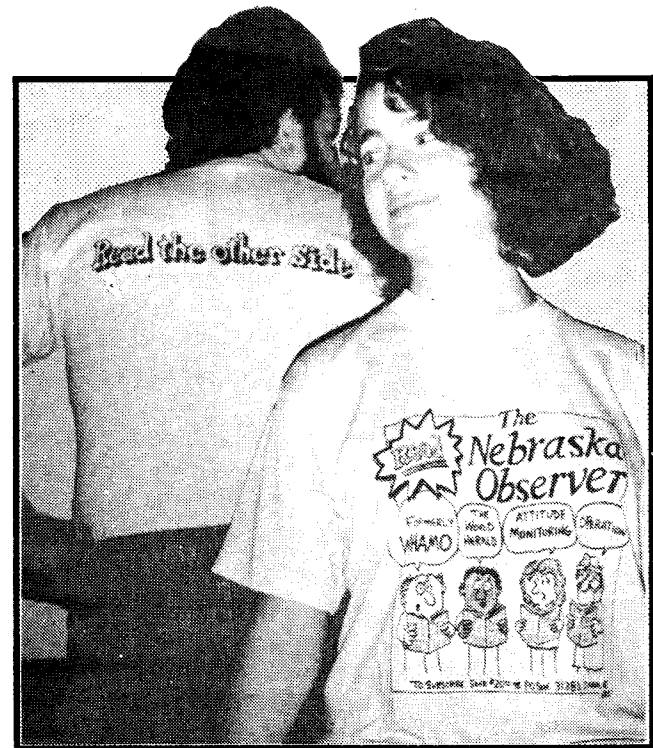
F.M. But wasn't 1971 was when Alec was formed?

Bonacci recalls all but the 1971 memory as being between 1979 and 1984.

F.M. We really only know of one Omaha person that was involved in satanic ritual that you can name, is that right?

P.B. (Another person named) Dr. Khage, same as Lord Bevins. He's the one that was a priest when I first got involved. He's a proctologist. He used to take care of kids if they were hurt. If they would bleed he would stitch them up and everything. I was at his office. It was near Skateland at 84th and F. He could walk from Skateland.

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Galvin Road at Harvell Drive, Bellevue
293-3732

Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. M-F; 9-5 Sat.; 1-5 Sun.

Bemis New Gallery

614 S. 11th, Omaha
341-7130

Hours: 11-5 daily.

Burkholder Project

719 P St., Lincoln
477-3305

Hours: 10-5 Monday through Saturday

Cathedral Arts Project

St. Cecilia's Cathedral
701 N. 40th St.
558-3100

Hours: 1-3:30 p.m. Thurs.-Sun. and by appointment.

Council Bluffs Artist's Loft

407 W. Broadway, Council Bluffs
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F; noon-4 p.m. Sat.

Creighton Fine Arts Gallery

Creighton University
27th and California, Omaha
280-2509

Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon.-Sat.; noon-4 Sunday.

Eyesound Gallery

109 N. 50th, Omaha
553-4432
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat.
Ongoing: Mixed media featuring work by John Thein, Kent Bellows, Paul Otero, Sue Knight and Dan Boylan.

Gallery 72

2709 Leavenworth, Omaha
345-3347
Garden of the Zodiac
Old Market Passageway, 1042 Howard, Omaha.
341-1877

Haydon Gallery

335 N. 8th, Hardy Building, Lincoln
475-5421
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10-5.

Haymarket Art Gallery

119 S. 9th St., Lincoln
475-1061
Hours: 10-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.

Hillmer Art Gallery

College of St. Mary, 1901 S. 72nd St., Omaha.
399-2621
Hours: 1-5 daily except Friday.

Iowa Western Community

College Fine Arts Gallery

2700 College Road, Council Bluffs
325-3352
Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Jewish Community Center

333 S. 132nd St., Omaha
334-8200
Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. M-Th.; 8-5 Fri.; 1-7 Sat.; 1-7 Sun.

Joslyn Art Museum

2200 Dodge, Omaha
342-3300
Hours: 10-5 Tues., Wed., Fri. & Sat.; 10-9 Thurs.; 1-5 Sunday.
Admission: \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for seniors and under 12.
Free Saturday before noon and to members.
Through Aug 11: "Oscar Howe: Traditionalist/Modernist," features a range of realist to abstract work by the Artist Laureate of South Dakota.
Through August 11: "Works on Paper: Artists of the 60s, 70s and 80s."
Through August 11: "Old Master Prints and Drawings."
Through September 1: "Fictional Characters," featuring a gallery guide designed specifically for younger art enthusiasts.
Through November 17: "Painting by the Rules: Academic Paintings from the Permanent Collection."
June 29-September 1: "American Abstraction 1930-1945: The Patricia and Phillip Frost Collection in the National Museum of American Art."h0*0*0*C>Local Artists

Exchange
Standard Blue
1415 Harney, Omaha
Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; noon-4 p.m. Sat. & Sun.

Metro Arts Artspace

601 S. 16th St.
341-7910
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9-4 or by appointment.

Museum of Nebraska Art

24th & Central Ave., Kearney
(308) 234-8559
Hours: 1-5 Tuesday through Saturday.
Passageway Gallery
417 S. 11th, Omaha
341-1910
Hours: 11-5 M-W; 11-9 Thurs.; 11-10 Fri. & Sat.; 12-5 Sun.

Photographer's Gallery, Inc.

4831 Dodge St., Omaha
551-5731
Hours: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 1-5 Sun.; Closed Sat.; or by appointment anytime.

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery

12th and R Sts, UNL Campus, Lincoln
472-2461
Hours: Tues & Wed. 10-5; Sun. 2-9; Thurs.-Sat. 10-5 and 7-9; closed Mon.

13th Street Gallery

1264 S. 13th St., Omaha
Mixed Media

University of Nebraska at

Omaha Gallery

616 S. 11th Street (2nd floor in CAT)
Hours: 10-5 Monday-Friday

Art Institute of Chicago

Michigan at Adams
Chicago, Illinois
(312) 443-3600
Hours: 10:30-4:30 Mon., Wed.-Fri.; 10:30-8 Tues.; 10-5 Sat.; noon-5 Sun.
Suggested Admission: \$5, seniors, students, \$2.50.
Continuing: Ellsworth Kelly. Six paintings conceived especially for the museum's Sculpture Court.
Continuing: "The Art of Music: A Salute to the Centennial Season of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra."
Through July 21: "Paul Strand: A Retrospective."
Through September 3: "English and French Printed Textiles."h0*0*0*C>Des Moines Art Center
4700 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa
(515) 277-4405
Hours: 11-5 Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday; 11-9 Thurs.; noon-5 Sun.; closed Mon.

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

4525 Oak St.
Kansas City, Mo.
(816) 561-4000
Hours: 10-5 Tues.-Sat.; 1-5 Sunday.
Admission: \$4 adults; \$1 students.
Permanent collection free on Sat.
Through July 14: "Nate Fors"
Through July 7: "Master Prints by Edvard Munch from the Epstein Family Collection."

Peace Museum

430 W. Erie
Chicago, Illinois
(312) 440-1860
Hours: noon-5 daily; noon-8 Thursday
Permanent Exhibits: "The Unforgettable Fire," drawings by survivors of atomic bombings. "The Ribbon," textile art on the themes of life and hope.

Send calendar information to

Jeanette Morgan

344-3979

P.O.Box 8158

Omaha, NE 68108

a r e a e v e n t s

Note: Information was current as of press time, but changes may occur. Call for updates.

DIRECTORY OF VENUES:

Ballet Omaha, performs at the Orpheum Theater, 346-7332.

Bellevue Little Theater, 203 W. Mission Ave., 291-1554.

Bemis Foundation/New Gallery, 614 S. 11th St., 341-7130. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

Center Stage Theater, 30th & Q streets, 733-5777.

Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol, 444-4750.

Creighton University, Performing Arts Center, 30th & Burt streets; Art Gallery, 27th & California streets, 280-2509.

Emmy Gifford Children's Theater, 3504 Center St., 345-4849.

Firehouse Dinner and Theatre, 11th & Jackson streets, 346-8833.

Grande Olde Players, 701 S. 39th St., 391-7888.

Henry Doorly Zoo, 10th & Deer Park Blvd., 733-8400.

Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge St., 342-3300. Open Sun 1-5 p.m., closed Mon, Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Thur 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

New Cinema, 1514 Davenport St., 346-8033. Screens film most weekends at 5:20, 7:30 & 9:40 Fri & Sat; Sun at 3 p.m.

Omaha Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol, 444-4750.

Omaha Childrens Museum, 500 S. 20th, 342-6164. Open Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun 1-5 p.m.

Omaha Community Playhouse, 69th & Cass streets, 553-0800.

Omaha Symphony Orchestra, see listings for venues, 342-3560

Omaha Workshop Theater, 3419 L. St. 558-2953. Shows are every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.

Opera/Omaha, performs at the Orpheum Theater, 346-0357.

Orpheum Theater, 409 S. 16th St., 444-4750.

Peter Kiewit Conference Center, 1313 Farnam St.

Rosenblatt Stadium, 13th & Bert Murphy Drive, 734-2550.

Sheldon Film Theater, 12th & R streets in Lincoln. 472-5353.

Strauss Performing Arts Center, on the UNO Campus 63rd & Dodge.

Sunset Speedway, 114th & State, 493-5271.

University of Nebraska at Omaha, 63th & Dodge streets.

Upstairs Dinner Theater, 221 S. 19th St., 344-7777.

Western Heritage Museum, 801 S. 10th St., 444-5071.

SPECIAL EVENTS

July 14th: Czech Festival. Includes polkas, ethnic foods and costumes, game booths and more; 11 a.m.-6 p.m., South Omaha Sokol Hall, 2021 "U" St. Free admission.

July 20th: Cycling for Recycling. Races at Wehrspan Lake 8901 S. 15th St.; 7:30 a.m./10 a.m./11:30 a.m. Entry fee \$12 or 35lbs. of aluminum cans. Sponsored by Mountain Dew. Prizes. Call (402) 253-2780 for more info.

July 25th: "Our Plains Indian Heritage, One Woman's Viewpoint" featuring Phyllis Stone, Ogalalla Sioux tribal elder. Neal Woods, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by Nebraska Humanities.

July 27th: Greater Omaha Iris Society Iris Sale. Starts at 10 a.m., Southroads Mall, 1001 North Fort Crook Road Bellevue.

ENVIRONMENT, PEACE, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Starting July 9th: Earth Day Committee meets every Tuesday at Willa Cather Branch Library, 44th & Center, 6:30 p.m.

Ecology Now meetings every Sunday in Elmwood Park at 4 p.m.

Youth for Peace meeting every Wednesday at 1215 Harney, 6 p.m.

CLEAN (City Lead Environmental Action Nebraska) meets 1st Thursday of each month at Dorothy Lamfir's, 5302 Izard, 554-1108.

No-Name Recycling Group meets every Saturday, 10:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 34th & Farnam.

Special Note: Call Sharon Clawson, 572-8486, if you have any more "Kick the Oil Habit" petitions.

July 4th: Coalition Against Racism Speak-Out. "What Independence Should Mean." Malcolm X birthsite, 3448 Pinkney, 10-11 a.m.

Speak-Out sponsored by Early Warning! Capitol steps, Lincoln. 5:00 p.m.

July 6th: Folk Aid II to benefit Nebraskans for Peace. Sing-out for peace. 10535 Cumming, 7 p.m., R.S.V.P. 496-7765. Bring your voice, instruments and your money.

July 7th: Anti-Racism Multicultural March & Picnic. Meets at 3:00 in Turner Park, 30th & Dodge Sts. March to ConAgra Park. Sponsored by Youth for Peace. Bring your favorite dish.

July 11th: American Indian Movement

(AIM) founded 1968.

July 12th: Birthdate of Henry David Thoreau, tax resister, and author of "On the Duty of Civil Disobedience." (1817)

July 15th: Start of Sac Trek V, six-day march between Lincoln and Omaha. Sponsored by Youth for Peace, Omaha and Early Warning! Lincoln. Begins in Lincoln. \$35 supply fee. In Omaha call Kristin Long 556-3405 or Nell Eckersley in Lincoln 477-1806 or write to 1425 S. 16th St. Lincoln, NE 68508 for details.

July 15th: Pastors For Peace Caravan To Nicaragua at 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Call the NFP office at 453-0776 for more information.

July 19th: Nicaraguan Independence Day. Nicaraguans led by the Sandinista Party overthrow the Somoza dictatorship. (1979)

July 26th: Cuba Report at First Unitarian Church, (Time TBA). A first-hand report of the Rectification Process and what's happening in Cuba today. Call Doug Lee Regier at 553-0945 for further details.

July 20th: End Sac Trek V. 3-4 p.m. at the Galvin Gate, Sac Airforce Base. See July 15 for info.

July 26th & 27th: Nebraskans for Peace film fundraiser at Creighton University. Shows (TBA) at 7 & 9:30. Call 453-0776.

July 27th: Youth for Peace Benefit at the Blue Barn Theatre, 1258 S. 13th, featuring Nebraska's best original bands. \$4. Doors open at 7. Call 344-3979 for line-up.

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

Omaha Children's Museum. "Young at Art Etch-A-Sketch" the history, manufacture and capability of Etch-A-Sketch. Through July 16.

FILM

New Cinema Theatre. 1514 Davenport St. Omaha, NE. Usually New Cinema films show at 5:20/7:30/9:40 p.m. Fri/Sat; 3 p.m. Sun.

Closed through July 10th. Reopens with "The Statue of Liberty" 11:45 a.m., July 11th. Call for more July screenings.

Sheldon Film Theater; Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery; University of Nebraska - Lincoln; 12th & R Sts; Lincoln, NE; Film Information Phone: (402) 472-5353.

July 5th-7th, & 11th-14th: "Privilege," a 1990 U.S.A. film by Yvonne Rainer at Sheldon Film Theater. Screenings at 7 & 9 p.m. with matinees 1 & 3 p.m. Sat; 3 & 5 p.m. Sun.

July 18th, 19th & 21st: "The Animated Films of Joanna Priestly."

Screenings at 3 & 7:30 p.m. on Thursday & Friday and at 3, 5, 7, & 9 p.m. on Sunday.

July 25th-28th: "Blood in the Face," a 1990 U.S.A. film by Anne Bohlen, Kevin Rafferty, & James Ridgeway; plus a short, "Island of Flowers," by Jorge Furtado. Screenings at 7 & 9 p.m. Matinees on Saturday at 1 & 3 p.m. and on Sunday at 3 & 5 p.m.

Creighton University

July 26th & 27th: Nebraskans for Peace Film Fundraiser. Screenings at 7 & 9:30. Call 453-0776.

MUSIC & DANCE

Howard Street Tavern: New Music Tuesdays all month.

July 3rd: Independence Eve featuring Bill Hoover begins a regular Wednesday night coffee house series at the Blue Barn Theatre, 1258 S. 13th. 8 p.m. Call 346-5037 with questions or contributions.

July 7th: Begins "Jazz on the Green," summer concert series held Thursday evenings featuring local and regional jazz, blues and swing, outdoors in the Sculpture Garden at Joslyn, 7 p.m.

July 14th: Nebraska Alternative Show. 5 bands. Stanton County Fairgrounds, Stanton, Nebraska. 2 p.m. Call 344-3979 for line-up & directions.

July 19th: Pioneer Disaster & Acorns tape release party. Blue Barn Theatre, 1258 S. 13th. 8 p.m.

July 20th: Acorns' Wild Card Night at the Blue Barn Theatre, 1258 S. 13th. Call 344-3979 for more info.

July 27th: Youth for Peace Benefit at the Blue Barn Theatre, 1258 S. 13th., featuring Nebraska's best original bands. \$4. Doors open at 7. Call 344-3979 for lineup.

THEATER

June 4th-August 11th: "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" at the Firehouse Dinner and Theatre. Tues-Sat at 8 p.m., Sun 2 & 7 p.m. at the Upstairs Dinner Theatre.

June 13th-July 7th: "Camelot" at the Norton Theatre. Thurs, Fri & Sat at 8 p.m. and Sun at 2 p.m.

July 4th & 6th: "As You Like It" at Shakespeare on the Green '91, Elmwood Park, south of UNO library. Greenshow at 7:30 p.m., Performance at 8 p.m.

July 5th & 7th: "Othello" at Shakespeare on the Green. See above.

June 21st-July 23rd: "Dead Weight" at the Magic Theatre. Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30 p.m.

July 12-August 17th: "Bates Cafe" fun-filled spoof on Hitchcock's "Psycho" Circle Theatre. 553-4715.

Lamb's Quarter: a Tasty Spinach Substitute —And it's free (in summer)

Nebraskans are fond of thinking up new uses for existing crops, like ethanol and cornstarch additives to make trash bags biodegradable. Some have also suggested alternate uses for plants not yet thought of as crops, like making a down substitute out of milkweed.

Well, we at the Nebraska Observer believe that the state has long overlooked the market potential for one of our favorite edible plants,—
lamb's quarter.

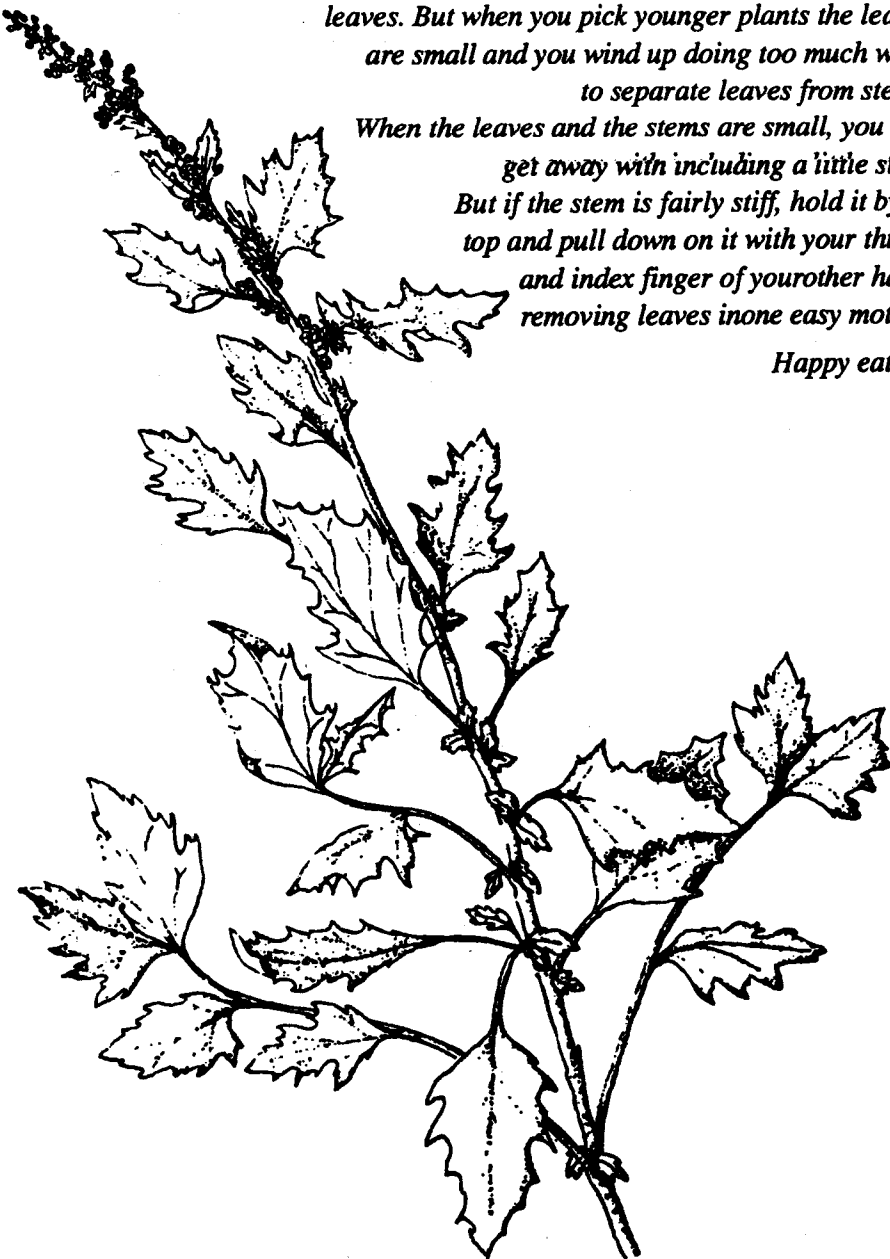
Lamb's quarter is a delicious and nutritious vegetable. Actually, we don't have any idea what the nutritional content of the noble weed is but maybe by the next time the Observer goes to print someone will come forth with the information and we can print it.

We do know that it is tasty and colorful. We have tried it in at least 10 recipes that call for cooked spinach, and in every case its flavor and color were better. Recipes we have prepared usually get compliments, although one kid who never eats anything green did complain.

Lamb's quarter grows anyplace you let it. If you haven't used very many broadleaf weed killers in your yard, it will thrive. Think of it as potential gourmet dinner. Here is what you need to know about harvesting it. What you really want is just the leaves. But when you pick younger plants the leaves are small and you wind up doing too much work to separate leaves from stems.

When the leaves and the stems are small, you can get away with including a little stem. But if the stem is fairly stiff, hold it by its top and pull down on it with your thumb and index finger of your other hand, removing leaves in one easy motion.

Happy eating.



Cream of Lamb's Quarter Soup

Microwave. Then blend in enough water to cover.

- 1 carrot
- 1 onion
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 potato

Microwave 1 lb. lamb's quarter in 1 c. water 'til wilted. Puree in blender.

Make a roux by whisking 1/3 c. flour into 1/3 c. melted butter. Whisk in 2 c. milk and cook over very low heat, stirring until thickened.

Add the lamb's quarter to the roux, along with 1/2 tsp. salt (to taste), pepper, 1/2 tsp. basil, pinch nutmeg, pinch thyme (or any fresh herb such as parsley or marjoram).

Add first mixture to second. Adjust seasoning and, if too thick, add milk. Heat and stir over a very low flame until smooth, creamy, green and fragrant.

Preparation time: 40 minutes. Serves four to six.

Lamb's Quarter-Ricotta Pie

Crust:

Cut together 1 c. flour (4/5 c. white plus 1/5 c. whole wheat is a good combination — that's approximate, of course) and 1/3 c. cold butter. Use a pastry cutter or two forks, or a food processor fitted with a steel blade. Try to work quickly so ingredients stay cold.

When the mixture is uniformly blended, add about 3 T. cold buttermilk or water (buttermilk is preferred) — enough so that mixture holds together enough to form a ball.

Chill the dough at least one hour. Makes 1 9-in. unbaked pie shell.

Filling:

Sautee in butter:

1/2 lb. lamb's quarter leaves, 1 small diced onion, with black pepper, 1/2 tsp. salt, and 1/2 tsp. basil

1 lb. ricotta cheese

3 beaten eggs

3 T. flour

1/2 c. grated sharp cheese

dash of nutmeg

Mix everything together, blending well. Spread into unbaked pie shell. Top with 1 c. sour cream spread to edges of crust and a generous application of paprika. Bake in a 375 degree oven for 40 to 45 minutes.

Lamb's Quarter-Yogurt Sauce

Good on grains, noodles (add some parmesan), baked potatoes, poached egg.

1 lb. fresh lamb's quarter — cleaned and steamed

1/2 tsp. salt

1 c. firm plain yogurt, room temperature

2 T. sour cream

2 T. butter

2 T. flour

black pepper to taste

pinch of nutmeg

(optional: 2 c. chopped onions, sauteed in butter; 1/2 c. grated cheddar)

Place wet, washed lamb's quarter in a saucepan, add salt, and cook until slightly limp and very deep green. Puree the cooked lamb's quarter in its own liquid in a blender.

Melt butter, whisk in flour. Cook, whisking 2 to 3 minutes. Add puree and cook 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Add seasonings (and the onions and/or cheese, if you chose to include them). Just before serving, whisk in the yogurt and sour cream.

Recipes adapted from the Moosewood cookbook by Mollie Katzen



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